



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's heritage at risk

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The National Trust today announced, on behalf of its 80,000 members, its inaugural 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top ten list in Hobart, Tasmania.

The final list was derived from over 60 'Our Heritage at Risk' places throughout Australia, identified by the National Trust earlier this year.

Whole sections of cities and landscapes were listed on the State and Territory 'Our Heritage at Risk' lists announced on World Heritage Day in April, including the Murray Darling Basin, Australia's most significant 'Region at Risk'. All these places remain under threat.

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Mr Pat Comben, says reducing the list to only ten was a difficult process.

"It was a hard decision coming up with only ten places," Mr Comben said. "The National Trust will continue their campaign to protect all heritage listed places across Australia, not just those on the top ten list."

The following places were named in the top ten:

- Adelaide Parklands, South Australia
- Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station, Australian Capital Territory
- Cameron Offices, Australian Capital Territory
- Dampier Rock Art, Western Australia
- Eveleigh Railway Workshops, New South Wales
- Hammerhead Crane, New South Wales
- HMVS Cerberus, Victoria
- Holy Trinity Church, Tasmania
- Northbank Precinct, Queensland
- Port Adelaide, South Australia

Australian heritage conservation policies continue to display a number of inadequacies, in particular in the ACT. The termination of the Register of the National Estate puts at risk the legislative protection of heritage places on Commonwealth land in the ACT.

Despite the National Top Ten List being restricted to specific places, these legislative and policy issues remain important considerations in the protection of our heritage.

“The program is designed to highlight these issues and focus attention on the need to find solutions. It illustrates the diversity of ‘Heritage at Risk’ and hopes to draw the attention of all levels of government and the private sector to the need to conserve our heritage for future generations of Australians to appreciate and enjoy,” said Mr Comben.

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