



**NATIONAL TRUST**

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## **Nominations open to Our Heritage at Risk 2011**

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme L. Blackman OAM, speaking on behalf of all 8 National Trust organisations and their 80 000 members, today invited nominations to its annual "Our Heritage at Risk" program.

Dr Blackman warned Australians of the many risks their heritage is facing. "Throughout the country important heritage is in danger of being lost to future generations of Australians. This program, by working with other heritage, conservation and community groups aims to engage all Australians and work with all levels of Government to seek for solutions."

Our Heritage at Risk includes built, natural and multi-cultural, including indigenous, moveable and intangible heritage.

"Our heritage is important in understanding our past and who we are," said Dr Blackman. "By raising awareness of the value of and the risks to our heritage, we hope to avert losses for the benefit of all."

This national two-tiered program now in its fifth year replaced the earlier Endangered Places Program but was expanded to allow partnerships with other organisations and to be more inclusive of all heritage.

Dr Blackman noted that despite this, most nominations to the program were places, including cultural and natural landscapes and ecosystems, with the vast majority being our important built heritage. "Sites of national, state and local heritage significance, such as the Coorong and Lower Lakes and the Murray Darling Basin with its important natural, historical and social values; and the historic urban heritage and character of our major cities including Millers Point Village Precinct in Sydney and in Queensland cities and towns are at risk of demolition, deterioration, damage, devaluation or disposal."

"But it is not only places that can be nominated" said Dr Blackman, "Our threatened heritage also includes moveable and intangible heritage. Many important collections in small museums around the country are in danger of being lost due to lack of resources to conserve them, before they are even catalogued. Much of our intangible heritage is also

threatened as our oral history, folklore and traditional skills, including Indigenous culture and languages, fall into disuse and disappear.”

“Our burial places and cemeteries, which featured in the 2010 list, are important repositories of Australian social heritage as well as many holding architectural and scientific significance”

“I would like to see more moveable heritage and intangible heritage nominated to the 2010 program.”

Dr Blackman advised that nominations will be accepted until 10 June 2011. Nominations of heritage that can be shown to be at real risk should be submitted directly to State and Territory National Trusts or through the nomination form on the Our Heritage at Risk website [www.heritageatrisk.org.au](http://www.heritageatrisk.org.au)

State and Territory Our Heritage at Risk lists will be released on 1<sup>st</sup> August, and the National Top Ten Our Heritage at Risk list will be announced on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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