



NATIONAL TRUST

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

### **Australia's Heritage at Risk**

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme Blackman OAM, speaking on behalf of all 8 National Trust organisations and their 80 000 members announced in Melbourne today the top places in Australia nominated as being most at risk under the 2011 'Our Heritage at Risk' program.

This program, now in its fifth year, is intended to raise awareness of heritage issues in Australia by identifying those places and objects we value which are at risk.

The final list for 2011 was derived from over sixty places throughout Australia identified by public and National Trust nominations earlier this year. The top ten list of nominations includes single and groups of buildings, ecosystems and landscapes which have natural, historic and Indigenous values.

The places are:

Shores of Lake Burley Griffin, ACT

Snake Creek Armament Depot, NT

Historic Pubs of Victoria

Coorong and Lower Murray Lakes, SA

Declining Bird Populations of Mount Lofty Ranges, SA

Hunter Valley Conservation Landscapes, NSW

Ravenswood Community Church, Qld

Burnie Paper Mill, Tas

Places on the Register of the National Estate, throughout Australia.

The whole of the Murray Darling Basin was again nominated as a region at risk due to the delays involved in producing an effective management plan, which would ensure sufficient and sustainable environmental flows.

While there is a concern by the National Trust for our built heritage and historic landscapes, which are facing a range of threats throughout Australia, we have a mounting concern for the natural environment and species diversity. The latter is exemplified in the declining bird populations in the Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia caused by vegetation clearance, habitat fragmentation, reduced nesting sites, food plant loss and competition with introduced species.

Dr Blackman noted that, "Our heritage, natural, Indigenous and historic is important in understanding our past and who we are. By raising awareness of the value of, and the risks to our heritage, we hope to avert losses and retain the places that are important to our future."

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