



**NATIONAL TRUST**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Trust welcomes the Government report on Climate Change threats to World Heritage**

**Tuesday 4 August 2009**

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme L Blackman OAM, speaking on behalf of the Australian National Trust movement and their 80 000 members, today welcomed the preliminary report on the “Implications of Climate Change For Australia’s World Heritage Properties”, produced by the ANU.

Dr Blackman said that the National Trust movement supports the Government’s concerns regarding the threats to heritage posed by climate change.

Dr Blackman said that the Trusts were particularly concerned about the threats highlighted in the report to world heritage and Australian icons, including the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park, Tasmanian wilderness, Carlton Gardens and the Sydney Opera House from lower rainfall, rising sea levels, higher sea and land temperatures, ocean acidification and extreme weather events.

“Many of the World Heritage properties mentioned in the report are classified by the National Trust or feature in the Trust managed program ‘Our Heritage at Risk’,” Blackman said. “Our deepest concerns are in regard to the threats to Aboriginal middens, sea cave deposits, archaeological sites, rock art and cave art sites, which are of unique cultural heritage value to Australia and the world, and are highly dependent on the maintenance and protection of their underlying landforms from climate change impacts.

“We are also concerned about the potential threats to architectural heritage, such as the Sydney Opera House, which are only scant metres above sea level and could be swamped by high tides which are predicted to occur to progressively higher levels and more often under conservative Climate Change scenarios.”

Dr Blackman also said, “The National Trust is committed to do its part to conserve the sustainable future of our shared Australian heritage, and we ask the Government, the Opposition and business sectors to support all actions to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions to mitigate deleterious effects upon our Australian and World heritage.”

The Australian Council of National Trusts is the peak body representing the eight State and Territory National Trusts of Australia. The National Trusts of Australia are sustainable organisations that work to conserve Australia’s natural, indigenous, cultural and built heritage for future generations.

**For media inquiries contact Dr Graeme Blackman on 0403 346650 or Paul Meiklejohn, CEO of the ACNT on 02 6247 6766**