



NATIONAL TRUST

Media release

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts Dr Graeme Blackman, on behalf of the National Trust's 80,000 members has welcomed Julia Gillard as Australia's new Prime Minister.

"I congratulate Ms Gillard and urge her to lead Australia into a society that values its heritage as part of a healthy environment," Dr Blackman said.

"Australians everywhere are seeing their natural and cultural heritage at risk of neglect and destruction by development, failures of planning authorities and climate change."

"Much more needs to be done to protect special places like our archaeological heritage, the Murray-Darling Basin, our natural and urban landscapes and the superb natural and cultural values of Australia.

"In this election year all political parties should be listening to the Australian public's continued strong desire to protect our cultural heritage including action to tackle climate change which has been identified as a threat to much of our built heritage."

"The National Trust warmly acknowledges Kevin Rudd's strong leadership role in heritage and the arts particularly with his Government's Heritage Projects component of the Jobs Funds. The National Trusts of Australia were able to complete necessary conservation works in a number of properties throughout the country creating valuable heritage jobs under this scheme.

The National Trusts look forward to a strong and productive relationship with Julia Gillard's government"

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