



NATIONAL TRUST

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### **National Trust applauds the Government and the Senate for the heritage funding in the stimulus package**

The chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme L Blackman, speaking on behalf of all 8 National Trust organisations and their 80 000 members, today congratulated the Government on the passage of the economic stimulus package. He also went on to congratulate the Greens and other cross bench Senators who voted the package into law today.

This package contains an allocation of sixty million dollars for urgent conservation work on a range of important heritage properties, properties that are important to the nation as a whole and to local communities. The National Trust was able to convince the government and the Senators that the Trust stands ready to play its part in the vital role of getting works underway as quickly as possible to assist in the national effort in this time of economic difficulty.

“The National Trust is the custodian of hundreds of cultural heritage sites, properties, land and collections that will benefit significantly from this funding injection. The funds will not only play a vital part in protecting our heritage places, however, but will also provide hundreds of jobs in a range of industries.” Dr Blackman said.

Dr Blackman paid particular tribute to the work done by Senator Ludlam from Western Australia. Senator Ludlam has, since coming to the Senate in July 2008, been an effective advocate for cultural heritage and the role he and his office played over the last week was vital in securing this most significant outcome

**For media inquiries contact Dr Graeme Blackman on 0403 346650 or Colin Griffiths, CEO of the ACNT on 0402 350767**