

NORFOLK



ISLAND

## THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

### MEDIA RELEASE

## More information on World Heritage listing

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, has released further information relevant to the proposal for World Heritage listing for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area. This is the second in a series of questions and answers over coming weeks to help inform the Norfolk Island community about the significance and details of the nomination of KAVHA for World Heritage listing.

*Q. How does an area get onto the World Heritage List?*

A. Countries which have ratified the Convention submit nominations for those places which they consider worthy of inclusion on the List. These are submitted for assessment to the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee is assisted in the assessment process by two international non-government organisations - the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which advises on natural heritage properties.

Recommendations from the advisory bodies are considered at the World Heritage Committee meeting held in the middle of each year. The Committee decides whether or not a nominated property meets the World Heritage criteria and is therefore worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List. Listing is not automatic, and the World Heritage Committee may reject a nomination. The entire process from receipt of nominations, assessment and then listing usually takes 18 months to complete.

Only the Australian Government, as Party to the Convention, can submit nominations for Australian World Heritage properties to the Committee. The Australian Government generally consults with the relevant State or Territory concerning possible nominations. Where a State or Territory agrees with the nomination of an area within its boundaries, it accepts primary responsibility for preparing the nomination. The Australian Government coordinates nominations which include more than one State or Territory.

*Q. Are there any World Heritage properties in Australia?*

A. There are currently 16 World Heritage properties in Australia which are considered to be of such outstanding universal natural and/or cultural value as to warrant inclusion on the World Heritage List:

- Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh, Qld/Naracoorte, SA) (natural)

- Central Eastern Rainforests Reserves (Australia), QLD and NSW (natural)
- Fraser Island, Qld (natural)
- Great Barrier Reef, Qld (natural)
- Kakadu National Park, NT (natural and cultural)
- Lord Howe Island Group, NSW (natural)
- Shark Bay, WA (natural)
- Tasmanian Wilderness, Tas (natural and cultural)
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, NT (national and cultural)
- Wet Tropics of Queensland (natural)
- Willandra Lakes Region, NSW (natural and cultural)
- Heard and MacDonal Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory (natural)
- Macquarie Island, Tas (natural)
- Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Vic (cultural)
- Greater Blue Mountains Area, NSW (natural)
- Purnululu National Park, WA (natural)

Further details about on these World Heritage listed areas is available from the Office of the Administrator. More general information on World Heritage issues is available from the Department of the Environment and Water Resources website at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/worldheritage/> or the UNESCO World Heritage site <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

Stephanie V Jack

**Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare**

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