

NORFOLK ISLAND



**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

**World Heritage listing – Part 4**

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, has released the fourth in a series of questions and answers about the implications of World Heritage listing for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area. Mrs Jack said that action has commenced toward the nomination of KAVHA for World Heritage listing and that she hoped that the ongoing information presented would be of assistance to community members wishing to know more about this process.

**Q. What is the difference between World Heritage, National Parks, the National Estate and the National Trust?**

A. Each term has a different function and is used by a separate government authority or community organisation. It is quite possible for parts of the same place to be included on the World Heritage List, to be a national part, to be listed in the National Heritage List and to be listed by the National Trust.

*World Heritage*

The term World Heritage is applied to places of natural or cultural significance which have been included on the World Heritage List.

World Heritage listing of a property is a recognition by the international community that the place is an outstanding example of the world's natural or cultural heritage.

*National Parks*

Australia's national parks, with some exceptions, are established and managed by State and Territory Governments. Kakadu National Park, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay are the responsibility of the Australian Government. Norfolk Island National Park was established under complimentary Australian Government Commonwealth and Norfolk Island legislation.

Activities allowed within State-managed national parks vary, but in general national parks are established for the conservation of natural and/or cultural values, while providing opportunities for recreation, education and research.

*National Heritage*

The term National Heritage is applied to places or groups of places with outstanding heritage value to the nation - whether natural, Indigenous or historic or a combination of these.

Places on the National Heritage list are protected to the full extent of Federal Government powers.

*Commonwealth Heritage*

The term Commonwealth Heritage is applied to places with outstanding heritage value to the nation that comprise natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places owned or controlled by the Commonwealth.

These include places connected to defence, communications, customs and other government activities that also reflect Australia's development as a nation.

*National Trust*

The National Trust is a nationwide community-based organisation. The aim of the Trust is to identify, acquire and conserve places of aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and other values, and act as a lobby group to encourage the conservation of such places. The National Trust lists contain mainly buildings, but also include places of natural and Aboriginal heritage significance. Listing by the National Trust does not convey any legislative protection to a place.

**Q. Does the Government have the power to restrict activities in World Heritage properties?**

A. Listing on the World Heritage List will mean that any action that has, or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property requires the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

The requirement for approval for developments that may affect the heritage values of KAVHA is not new. Development proposals in relation to KAVHA that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment currently require approval by the Minister. Most of KAVHA is Commonwealth land and is included in the Commonwealth Heritage List. The provisions of sections 26 and 28 of the EPBC Act require approval of the Minister for any development or proposal on Commonwealth land or adjacent to Commonwealth land that has, or is likely to have a significant impact on the environment. The environment includes heritage values.

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

Stephanie V Jack  
**Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare**

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