

Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Setting Best-Practice Standards for World Heritage Management

Prof Richard Mackay, AM
9 August 2012



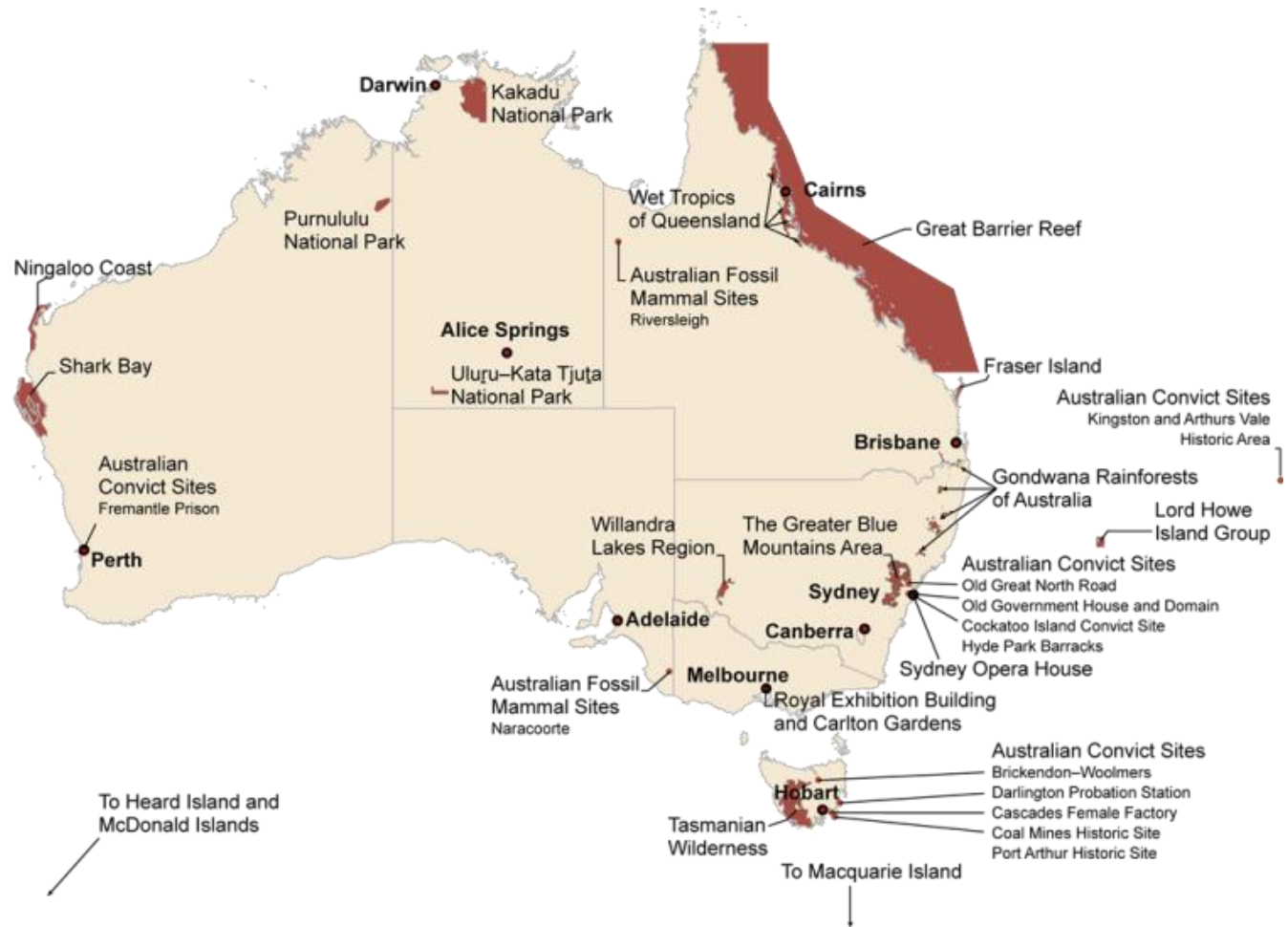
Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Best practice standards?

- SOE 2011
- Natural Heritage Places Charter
- Burra Charter
- Ask First
- Adaptive management
- Co-management
- Outlook reporting



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

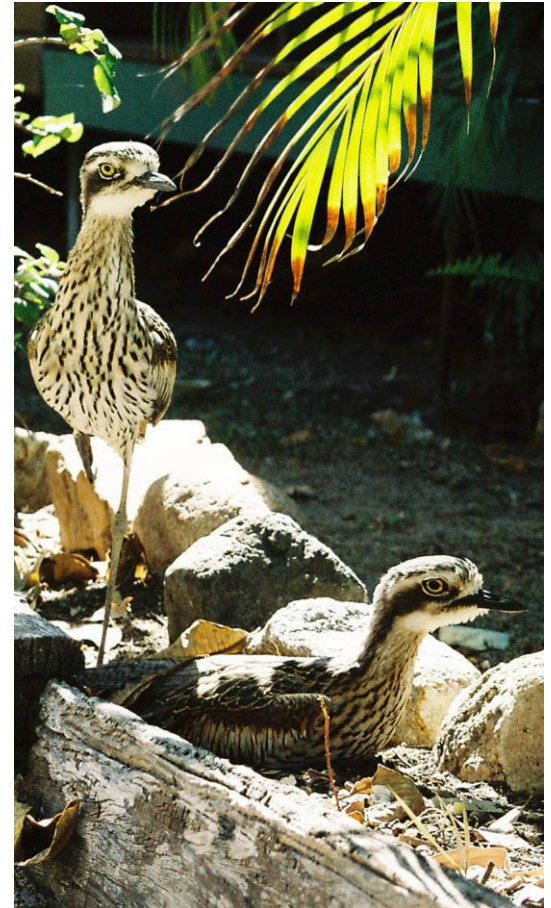


Source: World Heritage Areas, Australia (2011), Environmental Resources Information Network, Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, based on Australian Coastline and State Borders 1:100 000 (1990), Geoscience Australia

Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

A bird in the hand? Achievements:

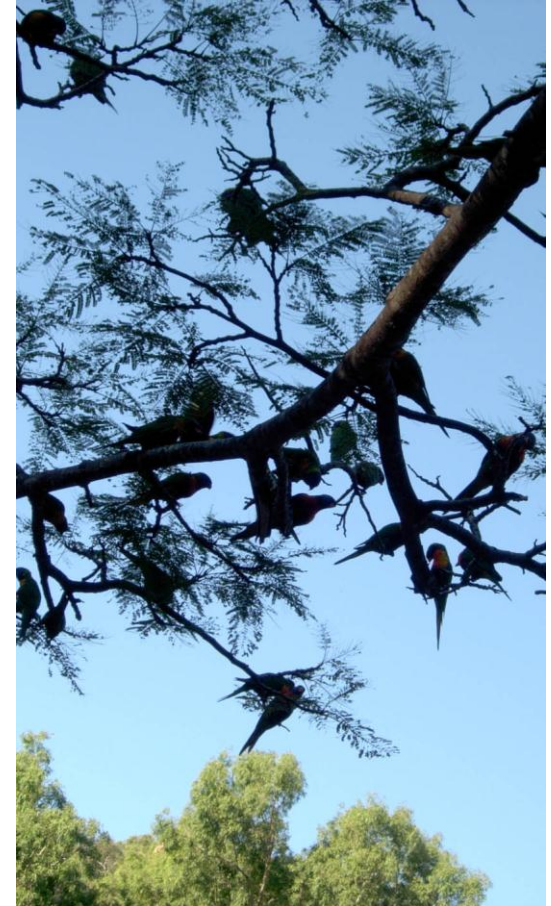
- Identification and listing
- Collaborative management
- Management plans
- Legislation
- Tourism and interpretation
- Indigenous engagement
- Advisory and scientific committees



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

or several in the bush? Threats:

- Climate change
- Population pressures and shifts
- Invasive species
- Development and resource extraction
- Loss of traditional knowledge and skills
- Incremental destruction and cumulative impacts



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Regulatory framework

- **World Heritage Convention**
- **Operational Guidelines**
- **EPBC Act**
- **WH Intergovernmental Agreement**
- **Commonwealth and state statutes and agencies**
- **‘Management’ Plans and other arrangements**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

WHC Article 5:

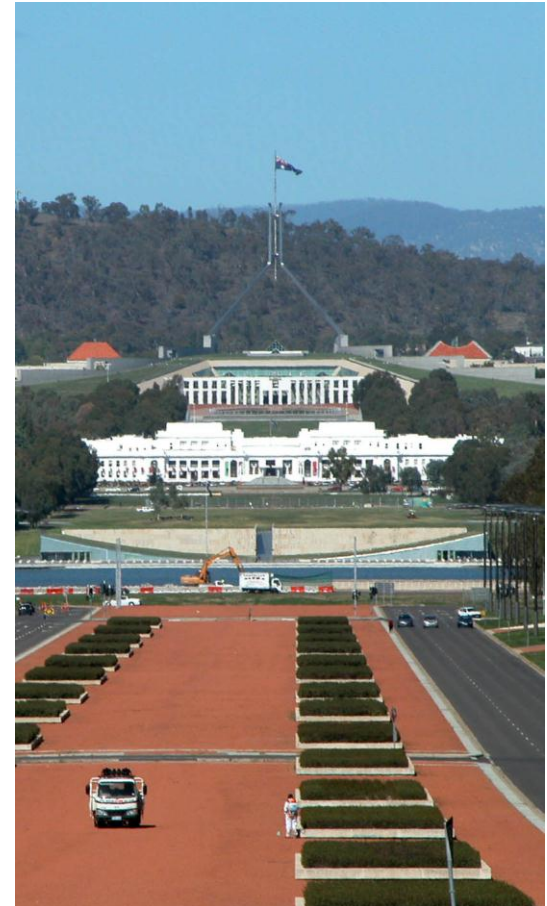
- **Function in the life of the community**
- **Establish services for protection and conservation**
- **Presentation of natural and cultural heritage**
- **Develop scientific and technical studies**
- **Legal and financial support measures**
- **Foster centres of excellence**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement

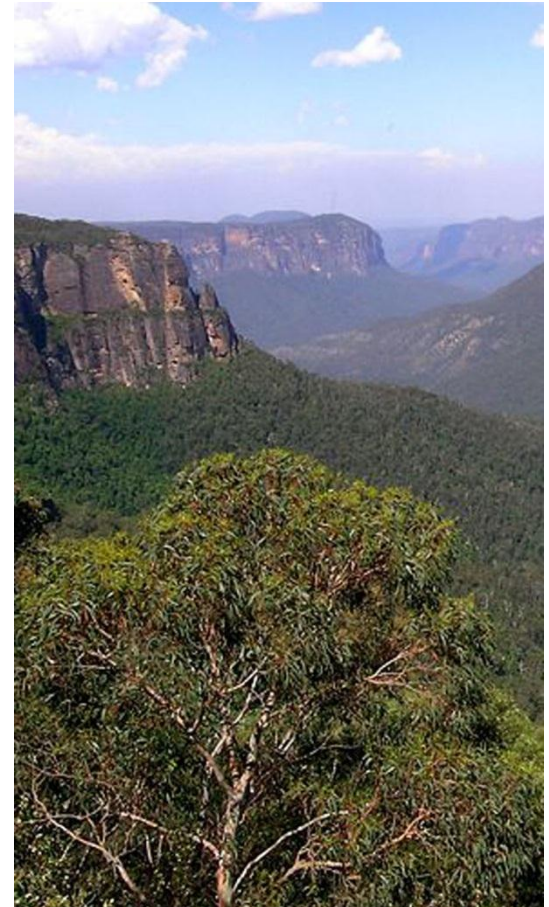
- Agreed 2009; almost all signed...
- Roles of Commonwealth, States and Territories
- EPHC → SCEW
- Tentative List and nomination
- Funding
- Management principles
- AWHAC and AWHIN



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

AWHAC:

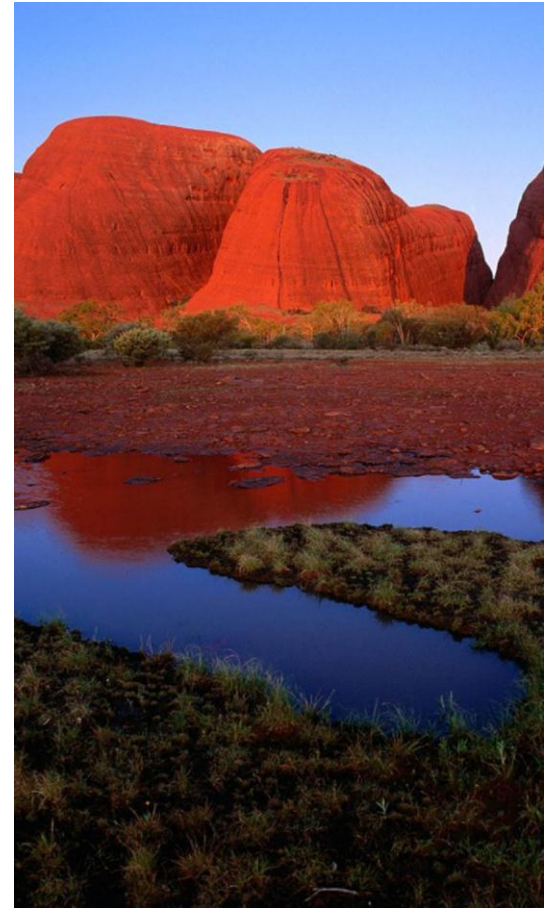
- **Advises SCEW via SOC**
- **Cross cutting issues, policies, programs, cultural protocols**
- **Research and monitoring**
- **Sharing knowledge and experience**
- **Recommending priorities on WH management**
- **Advising on promotion**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Uluru and Lamington

- **AWHAC meetings**
- **Indigenous engagement and cultural protocols**
- **Presentation, communication and tourism**
- **Threats to WH properties**
- **Resourcing**
- **Applied research and research priorities**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Principles, standards and practices

- How to implement the WH Intergovernmental Agreement
- Consolidate and present AWHAC work to date
- Inputs from:

WH Convention

Richmond Communiqué

ACIUCN and ICOMOS

SOE 2011 WH IG Principles

National Heritage Principles

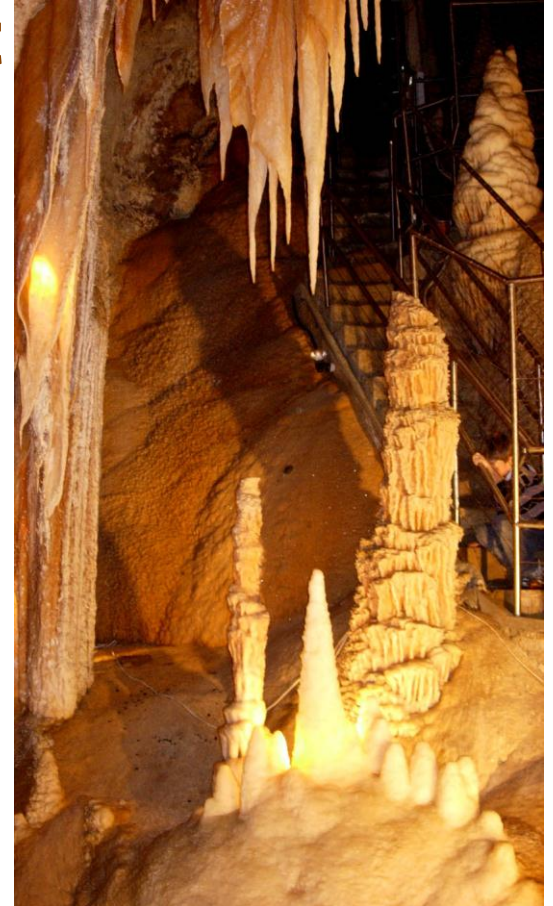
AWHAC members



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Identification & assessment

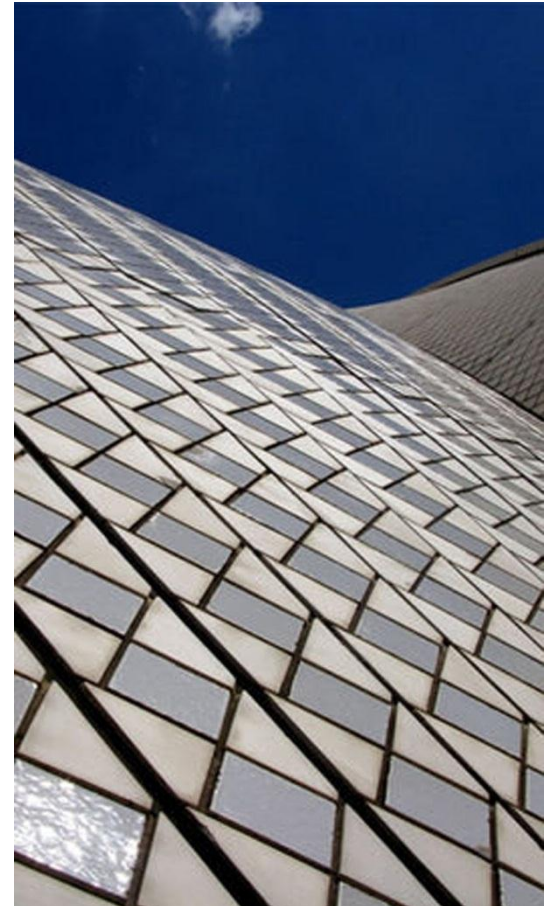
- Tentative List
- Appropriate boundaries
- Buffer zones
- Adjacent lands and edge effects
- All values: natural and cultural
- NHL bottleneck



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Protecting values

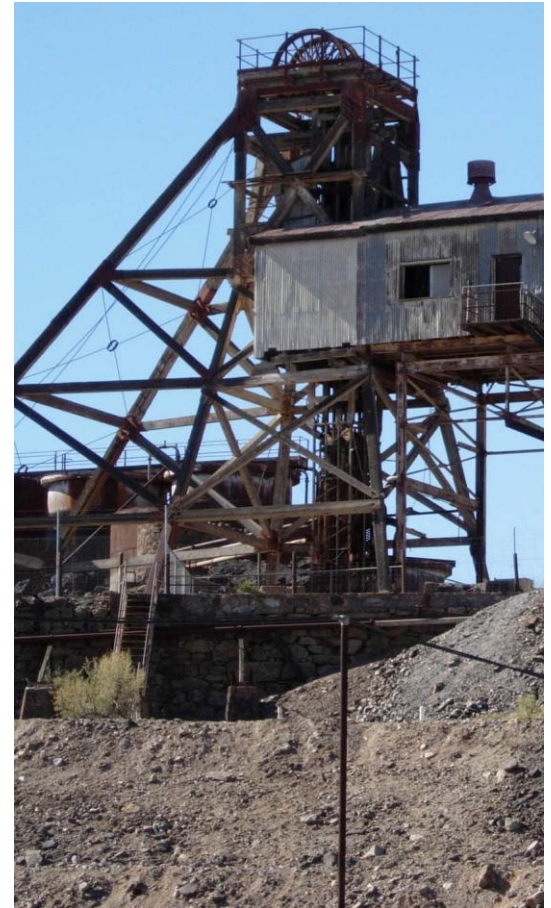
- **Statutory controls and processes**
- **Strategic assessment or reactive decisions?**
- **Cumulative impacts?**
- **'Significant impact' threshold**
- **OUV benchmarks**
- **Management plan requirements**
- **Wider context – bioregions and cultural traditions**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Rehabilitation

- Values-based
- Past land use assessment
- Rehabilitation projects
- Adjacent lands



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Function in the life of the community

- **Community engagement**
- **Advisory committees**
- **Traditional Owners**
- **Economic contribution**
- **Social contribution**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Indigenous perspectives

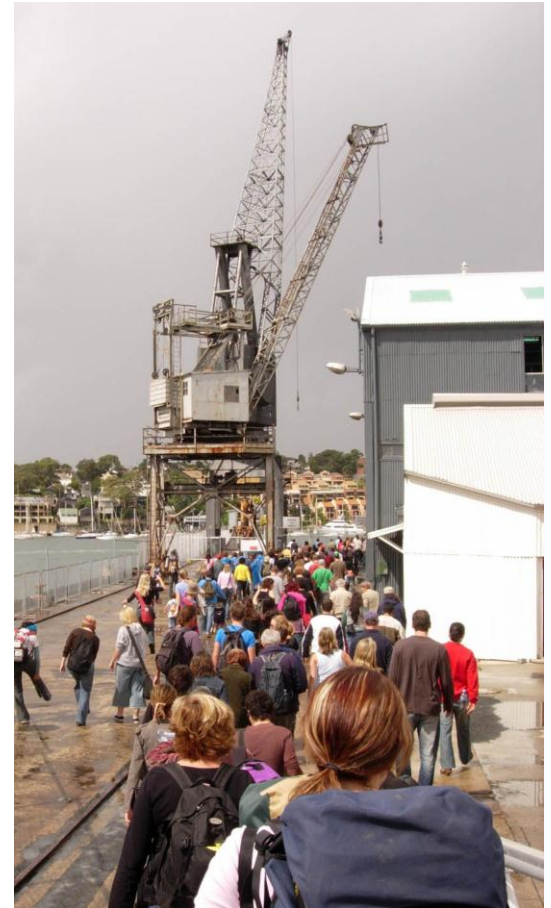
- Respecting rights and traditions
- Seeking input or obtaining consent?
- Systems for engagement
- Resources required
- AWHIN



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Tourism

- Vital element in community engagement and communication of values
- World heritage 'branding' (USA -v- Australia)
- Content of interpretation
- Industry partnerships
- Regulate - or use market forces to promote appropriate behaviour?



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Climate change impacts

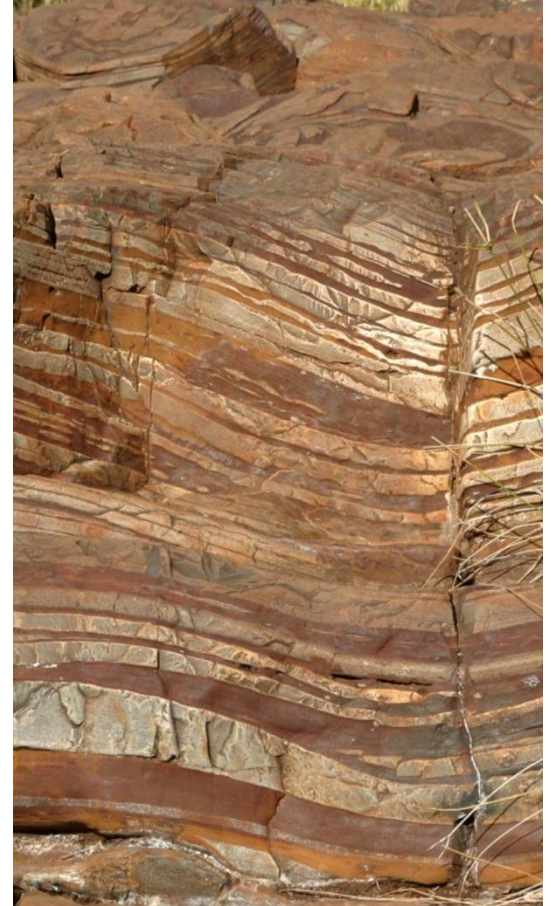
- **Happening now**
- **Altered fire regimes**
- **Species refuges**
- **Resilience**
- **Micro-management and hands-on solutions**
- **‘research crucibles’**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Applied research

- **Funding priority**
- **Monitoring management effectiveness**
- **Scientific, social and economic evidence as a basis for decision making**
- **Connection to periodic reporting**
- **ARC priority**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Education and training

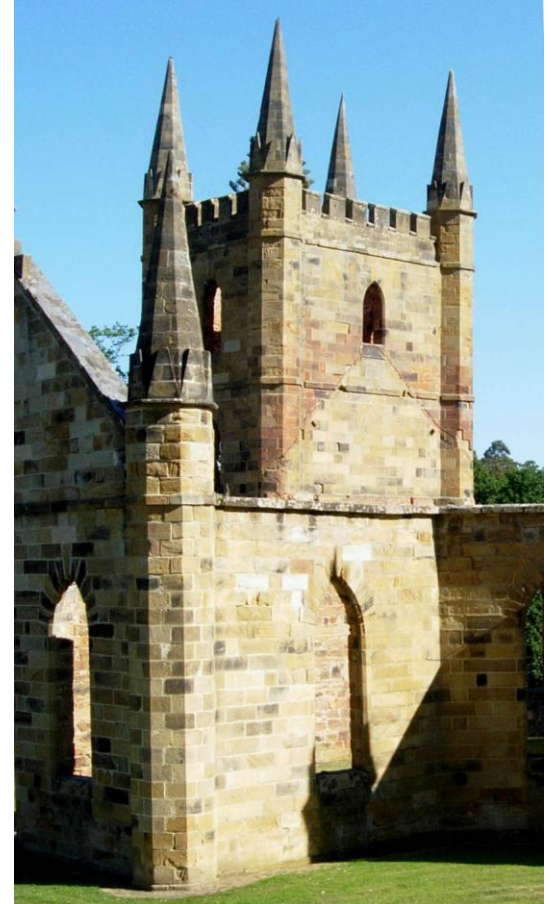
- Centres of excellence?
- Research focus
- Strategic tertiary relationships
- Heritage trades training and skills crisis
- International capacity – especially Asia and Pacific



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Resources

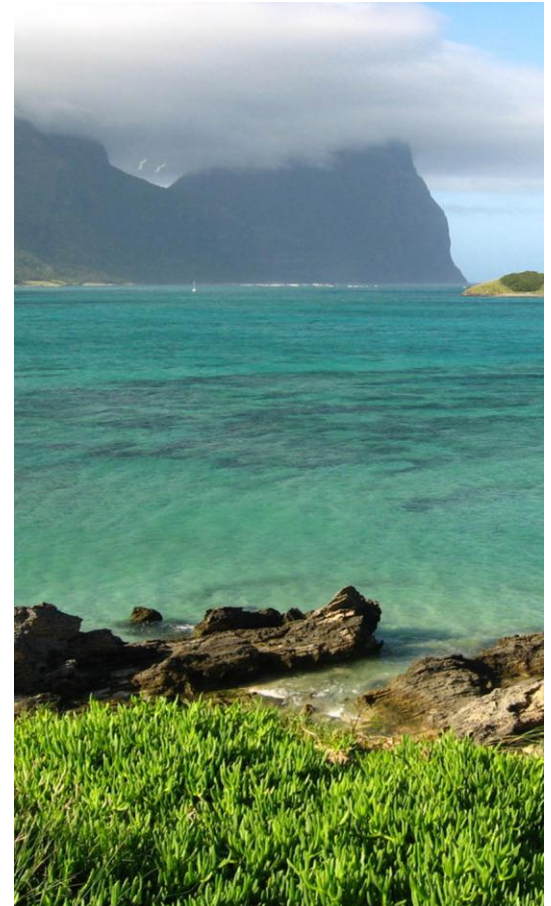
- **WH IG specifies Commonwealth, State and territory roles**
- **Caring for our Country - priorities**
- **Core functions: executive officers and advisory or scientific committees**
- **World Heritage appropriation?**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Commonwealth Leadership

- **World Heritage is a national issue, even though there are agreed State and Territory management arrangements**
- **Best practice 'standards' require Commonwealth leadership**



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Outlook.....

- Times are tough – reduced resources & increasing threats
- Inter-generational equity suggests an obligation to cherish and transmit
- A national strategic approach is needed
- Australia should establish standards for best practice World Heritage management



Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

Setting Best-Practice Standards for World Heritage Management

Prof Richard Mackay, AM
9 August 2012

