



Australian Government

Australia's heritage system



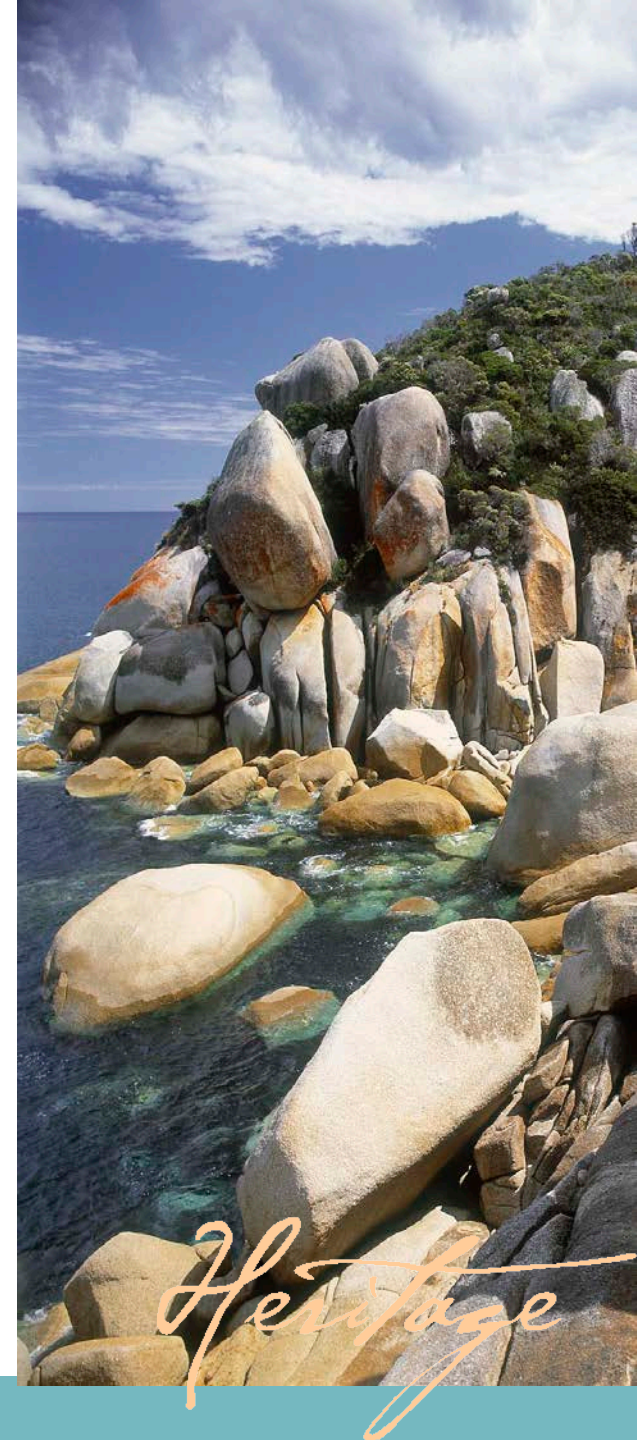
This presentation covers

Background to Australia's **Heritage** system

National Heritage listing process

Kimberley **heritage assessments**

Questions



Background to Australia's heritage system

In 1975 **Fraser Island** sanding mining stopped by Fraser Government using Australian Constitution - **export powers**.

Fraser Island subsequently first place on the Register of the National Estate and was included on the World Heritage List.

In 1983 damming of **SW Tasmania (Franklin Dam)** stopped by Hawke Government using Australian Constitution - **external affairs powers**.

Tasmanian Wilderness subsequently included on the World Heritage List.

Both included in **National Heritage List** in 2007.

Heritage

Background to Australia's heritage system

In 1997 the **Council of Australian Governments** agreed roles and responsibilities for environment and heritage.

This included a commitment to rationalise heritage protection.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act) defined the Australian Government's **World Heritage** role.

Heritage amendments to the EPBC Act in 2003 defined the Australian Government's **National Heritage** role.



Heritage

Background to Australia's heritage system

The *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*:

- established the **Australian Heritage Council** (AHC), as an independent expert body which advises the Minister on heritage listing, protection and management.

The EPBC Act 2003 amendments:

- created the **National Heritage List** to recognise, celebrate and conserve places of '*outstanding heritage value to the nation*'.

The EPBC Act was further amended in 2007 to allow **greater transparency** in the assessment process.



Heritage

National Heritage List criteria

A place has **National Heritage value** if it meets one or more of the statutory criteria for the NHL.

A criterion may relate to one or more of the following:

- **natural** heritage values of places
- **Indigenous** heritage values of places
- **historic** heritage values of places
- **other** heritage values.

The nine **criteria** (a to i) cover events, process, rarity, research potential, aesthetics, significant people, social value and places that are 'important as part of Indigenous tradition'.

The **threshold** for the NHL is very high.

The word "Heritage" is written in a stylized, orange cursive font, positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide. The letters are fluid and connected, with a slight shadow or gradient effect.

National Heritage List threshold

How is the very high **threshold** for the National Heritage List determined?

Through **comparative analysis**. That is:

- do other places have similar characteristics?
- if so, how do they compare with the nominated place?
- where is the best representation?
- what is the integrity?
- what is the authenticity?

Note:

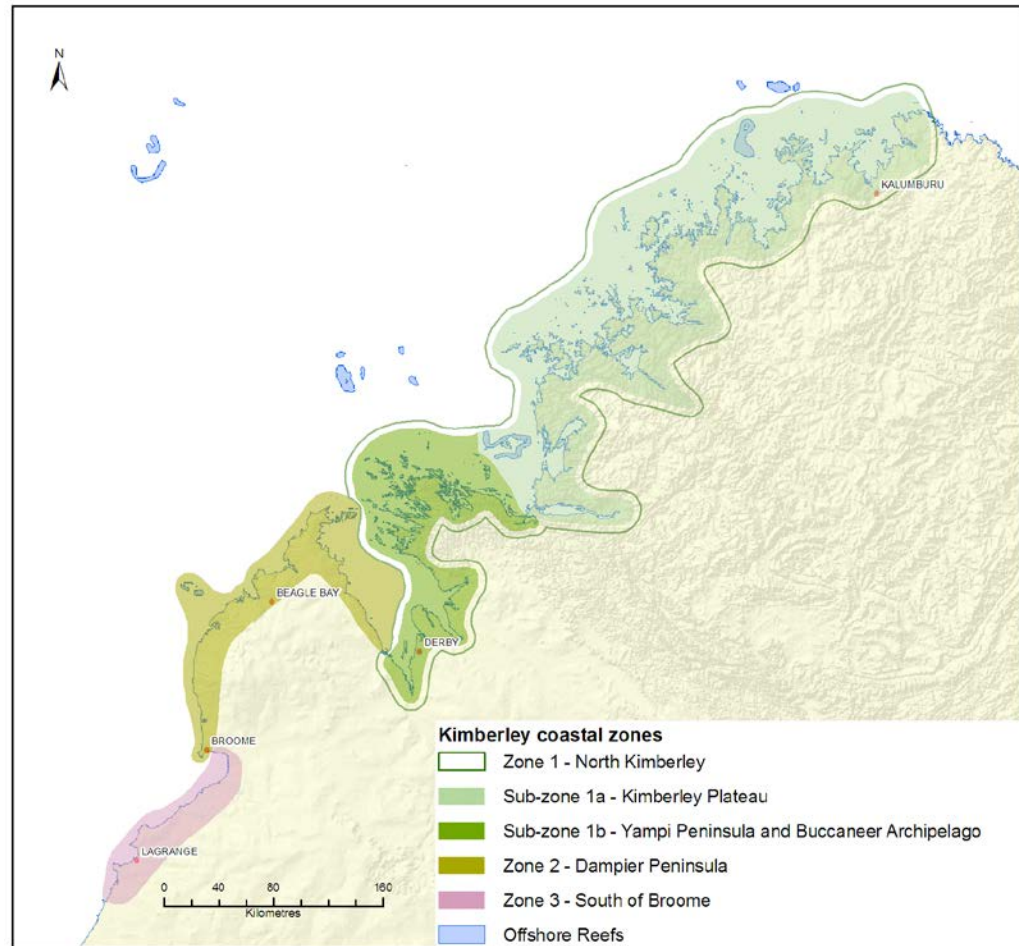
- **comparative analysis** is across the entire continent
- comparison may not always be appropriate for places of **Indigenous heritage** significance

Heritage

Kimberley Strategic Assessment

Input to **strategic assessment**:

- Australian Heritage Council is considering where **National Heritage** values are **likely** and **unlikely** to occur in relation to the Kimberley coast.
- this is for the **natural**, **Indigenous** and **historic** environments.



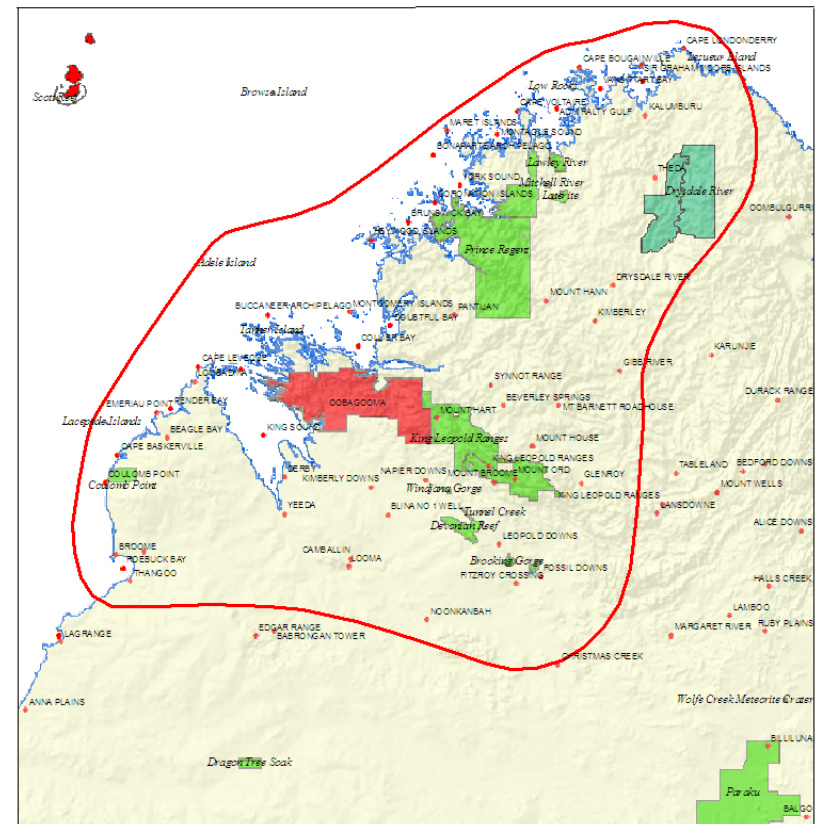
Heritage

Kimberley National Heritage assessment

February's Ministerial agreement included an examination of **national** and **international** heritage values.

Study area is larger than **strategic assessment**.

The Australian Heritage Council's assessment work is due by **30 June 2010**.



0 45 90 180 Kilometers

Australian Government
Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts

Kimberley NHL Assessment area
Heritage listed place
Heritage nominated place
Protected Areas
June 2008

Kimberley National Heritage assessment

National Heritage List challenges and opportunities:

- **size** and scale of the region.
- harnessing **best available** information, managing information gaps.
- **great transparency*** by working closely with Kimberley Land Council and NDT.
- providing opportunity for input by the **local, regional and national** communities.
- Working with **Dept of Environment and Conservation** and DEC's Conservation and National Heritage Values Group.
- Working with DIA and Heritage Office WA

* Note:

- Protection of Indigenous knowledge and other values may be required.



Heritage