



What is the ACT Heritage Council?

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The *Heritage Act 2004* (Heritage Act) establishes the ACT Heritage Council as the ACT Government's key advisory body on heritage issues. The Council's roles are:

- identifying, assessing, conserving and promoting places and objects in the ACT with natural and cultural heritage significance;
- encouraging the registration of heritage places and objects;
- working within the land planning and development system to achieve appropriate conservation of natural and cultural heritage places and objects, including Aboriginal places and objects;
- advising the Minister about issues affecting the management and promotion of heritage;
- encouraging and assisting in appropriate management of heritage places and objects;
- encouraging public interest in, and understanding of, issues relevant to the conservation of heritage places and objects;
- encouraging and providing public education about heritage places and objects;
- assisting in the promotion of tourism in relation to heritage places and objects;
- keeping adequate records, and encouraging others to keep adequate records, in relation to heritage places and objects; and
- any other function given to it under the Heritage Act or another Territory law.

The Council is also represented at the national level as a participant in the Australia and New Zealand Forum of Heritage Chairs and Officials.

The membership of the Council has been expanded to include representatives of business and the community, including the Aboriginal community. The eleven Council members include:

- three public representatives of the community, the Aboriginal community, and the property ownership, management and development sector
- six experts who represent one or more of the disciplines of Aboriginal culture; Aboriginal history; archaeology; architecture; engineering; history other than Aboriginal history; landscape architecture; nature conservation; object conservation; town planning; and urban design; and
- the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Chief Planning Executive, who do not vote on matters being decided by the Council.

The Minister appoints members of the Council for not more than three years, and appoints a chairperson and deputy chairperson from the members. A new Council will be appointed on or shortly after 9 March 2005. The ACT Government's Heritage Unit maintains a register of people interested in joining the Heritage Council, which is updated annually.

The material in this information sheet is provided for general information only, and should not be relied upon for the purpose of a particular matter covered by the Act.

The Heritage Act is available at:
www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2004-57/default.asp

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