

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1577/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Angus Mackenzie
Permanent Delegation of Australia to UNESCO
Ambassade de l'Australie
4, rue Jean-Rey
75724 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2019

Budj Bim Cultural Landscape (Australia) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Budj Bim Cultural Landscape" was carried out by Mary O'Keeffe (New Zealand) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 10 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the selection of serial components and the factors affecting the property. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 8 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday 23 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Protection

The ICOMOS Panel recognized the significance of the nominated property, which is likely the oldest continuous aquaculture system existing and is therefore concerned about the future protection of this important cultural resource. The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate if the State Party could provide further clarification on the legal instruments in place to guarantee the continuity and quality of the overall water

system. The ICOMOS Panel would in this context appreciate further information on how the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Victoria's Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 address the cultural heritage values of this property and how the legal stipulations would apply in cases of potential future conflict with other land uses.

During the meeting with the State Party, the ICOMOS Panel has been informed about a hydrological study for the analysis of the interrelation of water sources and water flows. Would it be possible to provide ICOMOS with a copy of this study?

The State Party further indicated that good relationships were established with most of the property neighbors who predominantly used the neighboring lands as pastures and hence with very little potential negative impact on the water quality. What mechanisms would prevent changes of land use in these properties? Which current challenges exist with neighboring property owners and how will these be addressed in the future?

Buffer Zone

Lastly, in response to the ICOMOS Panel inquiry concerning the possibility of establishing a Buffer Zone, the State Party indicated that based on the legal regulations in place, the nominated property did enjoy a "legislative" Buffer Zone with the EPBC Act (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999). Could the State Party kindly provide more information on the operation of this "legislative" Buffer Zone and highlight how a potential negative impact located outside the nominated property boundaries could be prevented? Could the State Party also indicate if the future declaration of a World Heritage Environs Area, according to par. 169 of the Victoria Heritage Act (2017), is envisaged?

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information **by 28 February 2019 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we would be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
 Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation
 Budj Bim Council
 Parks Victoria
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre