

Flinders Ranges

Pursuing World Heritage

2021 Project Update

World Heritage Tentative Listing

In April 2021, a significant milestone was achieved, with UNESCO accepting Australia's inclusion of the Flinders Ranges on its [World Heritage Tentative List](#). This is an exciting and important step in pursuing World Heritage listing, expressing Australia's commitment to nominate in the future.

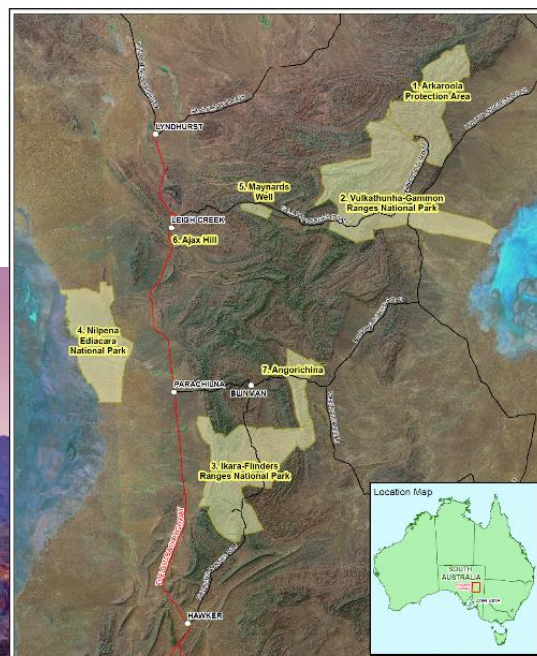
The [Flinders Ranges World Heritage Tentative List submission](#) describes the outstanding World Heritage values that are proposed to be nominated, the evidence to support the unique Flinders Ranges World Heritage story and how it meets the criteria for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

In developing the Tentative List submission, Jason Irving, Manager, National Parks and Protected Area Program, SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW) together with the Flinders Ranges World Heritage lead authors: Distinguished Prof Mary Droser, University of California - Riverside, Hon Prof Glenn Brock, Macquarie University and SA Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) Senior Geologist Steve Hore drew information from the Flinders Ranges World Heritage Serial Property Statement, which many of you contributed to.

The Serial Property

Seven properties have been identified that demonstrate the technical and scientific evidence required to support the Flinders Ranges World Heritage nomination. These are:

- Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
- Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park
- Nilpena Ediacara National Park
- Angorichina Station
- Maynards Well Station
- Puttapa Station
- Arkaroola Protection Area.



[Watch the Flinders Ranges World Heritage promotional video on YouTube](#)

APPOINTMENT OF LEAD EDITOR

Terry Bailey has been appointed as the Flinders Ranges World Heritage nomination dossier Lead Editor following a competitive tender process. Terry has worked in the public and higher education sectors for over 30 years in many senior leadership and executive roles including as Executive Director of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania, Chief Executive of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and as Assistant Secretary responsible for heritage in the Commonwealth Government. He is currently the Executive Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Tasmania.

Between 2004 and 2010 Terry prepared World Heritage nominations for the Australian Government, including the Ningaloo Coast, the Australian Convict Sites and the Sydney Opera House. Terry is the World Heritage advisor to the WA Government and is currently overseeing the preparation of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage nomination.



Getting World Heritage ready

World Heritage Tourism Concept Planning

Concept planning for World Heritage sites has progressed over 2021, with plans prepared for Arkaroola, Nilpena and Brachina Gorge and plans in development for Ajax Hill on Puttapa Station and Castle Rock on Maynards Well Station. The planning provides guidance on the presentation of visitor facilities and information for World Heritage sites, which can be carried across all sites included in the World Heritage property.

Nilpena

A stone gateway has been constructed adjacent the Outback Highway, which will be the welcoming point for all visitors when the park opens in the first half of 2022. From the gateway, a 14 km journey as part of the guided tour will lead you to a new visitor precinct, where currently work to re-purpose the old Blacksmith's Shop is progressing. The Blacksmith's Shop will be a state-of-the-art interpretation centre, which will feature an excavated fossil bed and audio-visual experience. Additionally, a Class 2, all-accessible trail has been developed amongst the fossil fields. The trail includes nodes of excavated fossil beds.

Brachina Gorge

Works are planned to develop the Ediacaran Golden Spike into a key World Heritage visitor node along the Brachina Gorge Geological Trail. Presentation of the site and access to it will be upgraded in 2022 in preparation for World Heritage listing. Visitor interpretation planning is being completed by DEW in consultation with the World Heritage lead authors to ensure the World Heritage narrative is communicated. Broadening the current interpretation from a purely geological narrative to incorporate the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the area will provide meaningful connections for visitors, with new physical signs to be installed, supported by digital interpretation. Internet connectivity at the gateways to Brachina Gorge will provide an opportunity for visitors to download the digital content so it can be accessed offline as they drive along the trail. Work to rehabilitate the paleo-mag holes at the Golden Spike will recommence in 2022. The holes that were filled in 2020 have not discoloured and remain difficult to see. A number of holes will be retained, with supporting information to be provided to visitors explaining their presence at the site.

Arkaroola

Concept planning for Arkaroola has progressed, with a recent site inspection by DEW Flinders Ranges World Heritage team Jason Irving and Tina Brew, Landscape Architect Greg Grabasch, Department for Energy and Mining Senior Geologist, Steve Hore and Geoscience Australia's Chief Scientist Steve Hill, who met with Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary Managers Vicki-Lee Wilson and Doug Sprigg. The group visited some of the nine World Heritage elements in Arkaroola to discuss their presentation to visitors and World Heritage boundaries.

(L-Top) New Nilpena fossil site pathway (Photo by Tina Brew)

(L-Middle) Nilpena gateway (Photo by Tina Brew)

(L-Middle) An artist's impression of the repurposed Blacksmith's Shop at Nilpena

(L-Bottom) Vicki-Lee Wilson, Steve Hill, Steve Hore, Jason Irving, Greg Grabasch and Doug Sprigg at Stubbs Waterhole, Arkaroola (Photo by Tina Brew)

For more information

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2021 STOCKTAKE

MARCH

- Presentation to the Flinders Ranges Council on the nomination.
- Landholder meetings and site visits with Senior Geologist (DEM).

MAY-JUNE

- DEW staff visit the office for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in ACT to plan for the next stages of the nomination.
- Flinders Ranges World Heritage Community Reference Group meeting at Beltana.
- Landholder meetings and site visits with tourism planners and landscape architects.
- Presentation to Livestock SA - Northern Group at Port Augusta.
- Proclamation of Nilpena Ediacara National Park.

SEPTEMBER

- Flinders Ranges World Heritage Community Reference Group meeting at Wilpena.
- Visit to Brachina Gorge World Heritage sites with the Community Reference Group.
- Site visit to Nilpena and Brachina Gorge with the SA Minister for Environment and Water.

NOVEMBER

- Arkaroola site visit with landholders to discuss site concepts and World Heritage boundaries.
- Flinders Ranges World Heritage Community Reference Group meeting at Parachilna.
- Visit to Nilpena World Heritage site with the Community Reference Group.
- WH site visits with Senior Geologist (DEM).

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Landholders agree to share their involvement in the nomination.
- Flinders Ranges World Heritage Community Reference Group meeting at Hawker.
- Presentation on the bid to the Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park at their Annual General Meeting.
- World Heritage information session delivered to over 60 staff from the South Australian Department for Energy and Mining (DEM).
- Presentation at Tourism Forum at Port Augusta

APRIL

- Flinders Ranges included on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.
- Australian Journal of Earth Sciences Flinders Ranges Special Edition official launch and celebration event at the SA Museum.
- Site visit to Brachina Gorge with the Adnyamathanha representatives of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board

JULY-AUGUST

- Briefing to the Chief Executive of the Outback Communities Authority.
- Presentation at the annual dinner of the Geological Society of Australia - South Australian Division.
- Presentation to the Hawker Community Development Board.
- Presentation at Regional Development Australia's Economic Development Forum at Leigh Creek.
- Presentation at community forum at Kimba.
- Site visit with the SA Parks and Wilderness Council to Nilpena and Brachina Gorge.

OCTOBER

- World Heritage workshop with the South Australian Tourism Commission.
- Meeting with the Walking Trails Support Group on World Heritage sites in the Flinders Ranges.

DECEMBER

- Appointment of Terry Bailey, Flinders Ranges World Heritage Lead Editor