

Flinders Ranges

World Heritage Nomination

What is World Heritage?

The World Heritage List is managed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Only places that have “Outstanding Universal Value” are included on the World Heritage List. These are places of such significance that they are important for both current and future generations around the world.

As one of 196 countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention, Australia can nominate places for the World Heritage List for their natural or cultural value, or for both. Australia is proposing to put forward the Flinders Ranges for nomination to the list.

World Heritage fast facts



1,223
listings around
the world



20 listings
in Australia:

- 12 natural
- 4 cultural
- 4 mixed

1 listing in
South Australia:
the Naracoorte
Caves

How does the nomination process work?

The Flinders Ranges was placed on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in 2021, which is a list of places it wants to nominate for the World Heritage in the future.

The Department for Environment and Water is preparing the nomination. It is intended to be submitted by the Australian Government in January 2026.

If successful, the Flinders Ranges could be officially listed in mid-2027.

Why might the Flinders Ranges be nominated?

The Flinders Ranges is being nominated for its incredible fossils and geology.

It is the only place on Earth where we can observe the continuous formation of animal life between 672 and 510 million years ago through three geological periods: the Cryogenian, the Ediacaran and the Cambrian periods.

The Ediacaran period's name in fact finds its origins in Adnyamathanha language, in the word *Idhi* or zebra finch. The records of this period found in the Flinders Ranges are so exemplary and significant that a Golden Spike has been installed in Brachina Gorge which is the best place in the world to recognise the start of the Ediacaran period.

What properties would be included in the World Heritage nomination?

The proposed World Heritage nomination has 7 parts across the Flinders Ranges (see below).

The boundaries of the 7 parts have been endorsed by the relevant co-management boards, government agencies and pastoralists.



More information available at:
www.flindersrangesworldheritage.sa.gov.au
or contact us by email (DEW.FRWH@sa.gov.au)



Australian Government



Government
of South Australia



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What is the Adnyamathanha community's role?

The World Heritage nomination is on the traditional lands of the Adnyamathanha People. This means that the nomination can only be submitted to UNESCO if the Adnyamathanha People provide their free, prior and informed consent.

Representatives from National Parks Co-Management Boards and the ATLA Culture Heritage and Native Title Committee (CHANT), as well as members of the wider community have been meeting regularly since the end of 2023 to discuss the project. Various community engagements have also been taking place on Country and online for Adnyamathanha people to learn more about the project.

Adnyamathanha Cultural Recording

During the community meetings, Adnyamathanha members have expressed the desire to tell Adnyamathanha Muda and include it in the nomination dossier.

Elders identified by CHANT were interviewed in January 2025. The stories they have told have been recorded and written by Adnyamathanha authors Jacinta Koolmatrice and Zane Weetra.

If approved by community members, the text will feature in several sections of the nomination:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Introduction
- History and Description
- Protection and Management

Cultural Sites Protection

Community members have also asked for better protection of key Adnyamathanha cultural heritage sites.

An experienced independent consultant, Conservation Management, has been engaged to identify options for enhanced protection and management of key Adnyamathanha sites.

This project is led by CHANT members, who first met in April 2025 and will involve other elders who speak for these places.

What will and won't happen if the Flinders Ranges gets World Heritage listing?

- Listing will recognise the global importance of the Flinders Ranges.
- Listing will increase opportunities for Adnyamathanha employment through site management and tourism.
- Listing will increase opportunities to access to funding and grants for tourism, site management and protection.
- Muni site will stay managed as a secret site, with its access controlled by Adnyamathanha through the co-management board.
- Listing won't affect ownership, native title or cultural management.
- Listing won't automatically increase visitation.
- Listing doesn't require new visitor access, and no new access is planned for Arkaroola, Puttapa and Angorichina Stations, Nilpena Ediacara, Ikara-Flinders Ranges or Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Parks.

Adnyamathanha community vote

Adnyamathanha Common Law Holders will be asked to provide their consent to the Flinders Ranges being assessed for World Heritage at a community vote on 14 June 2025.

If community members provide consent, documentation will be forwarded to the Australian Government for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Once assessed, the Adnyamathanha community will be asked to provide their final consent on World Heritage.

In the absence of community consent, the documentation will not proceed to submission with the World Heritage Centre.

A copy of the text prepared as part of Adnyamathanha cultural recording will be made available for consultation as part of the community vote meeting on 14 June 2025.

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