

# Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional

*The Cairns Communiqué*



# Australia's World Heritage

- ▶ 19 properties (12 natural; 3 cultural; 4 mixed)
- ▶ Includes globally recognised icons:
  - Great Barrier Reef
  - Wet Tropics
  - Kakadu
  - Uluru – Kata Tjuta
  - Tasmanian Wilderness
  - Sydney Opera House
- ▶ Federal and State government roles
- ▶ Diverse management arrangements

# Cairns World Heritage Symposium

- ▶ Held in Cairns, North Queensland in August 2012
- ▶ 40 year anniversary of World Heritage Convention
- ▶ Convened by the Australian Committee for IUCN
  - Support from WTMA, ACF and Australian Government
- ▶ 100+ attended from around Australia (and Oceania Regional Office)
- ▶ Endorsed the Cairns Communiqué.
- ▶ Proceedings published by ACIUCN as:
  - *Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional: The Future of World Heritage in Australia*

# Cairns Communiqué

- ▶ Prepared as: *‘a contribution to development of a contemporary statement of priorities and principles for the management of World Heritage in Australia’*
- ▶ Drafting committee of 13 people
- ▶ Draft presented to Cairns symposium for comment and feedback
- ▶ Final draft incorporated in symposium proceedings

# Content

- ▶ Structured to follow the WH convention goals
- ▶ Recommends actions and principles to advance WH in Australia
- ▶ Intended to be consistent with WHC Guidelines and Commonwealth and State legislation
- ▶ Includes a list of potential future World Heritage nominations

# Issues

- ▶ Use and influence
  - Who owns it?
  - Who is paying attention?
- ▶ Natural values emphasis
- ▶ Rapid changes in policy context
- ▶ National World Heritage policy leadership
- ▶ Alignment with international priorities and process

# Table group discussions

- ▶ Prompting questions:
  - What does it emphasise?
  - What does it miss?
  - What surprises you?
  - Are there international counterparts? Has this been tried elsewhere?
  - Would the approach have value in your jurisdiction?
- ▶ Half hour discussion followed by report back