Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Finalised Priority Assessment List for the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists for 2025–26

Name of Place	Description	Completion Date	Main Classification	Reasons for Inclusion
Exmouth Gulf (WA)	The geomorphology and habitats of the arid tropical proposed Exmouth Gulf Heritage Area are of global significance for their geological history, unique ecosystems, biodiversity and superlative beauty. Geo-evolutionary history and extreme climate change has driven the development of unique landscapes, highly heterogeneous marine and terrestrial habitats, and a number of unique, productive and biodiverse arid zone terrestrial, marine, and subterranean ecosystems unlike anywhere else in Australia. The area is part of a landscape which represents a demonstrated archaeological and paleoenvironmental record of Pleistocene-Holocene coastal occupation and marine resource use that tracks the interaction of Aboriginal people with fluctuating sea levels over 40,000 years. The connection of this area to the wreck of the *Barque Stefano* also represents another facet of the Gulf's rich cultural heritage.	30 June 2030	Indigenous, Natural	Based on the information in the nomination, the place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria (s.324D). The nomination was thorough and detailed including technical/scientific assessment and comparative analysis of other National and World Heritage places and properties (e.g. Shark Bay and the Great Barrier Reef). There is strong support from the Western Australian Government, owner/occupiers and interested parties.

Name of Place	Description	Completion Date	Main Classification	Reasons for Inclusion
Birch Building, ANU (ACT)	The Birch Building at the Australian National University (ANU) is historically significant as a building constructed for the ANU Research School of Chemistry in 1968 at a time of substantial growth in the Australian higher education sector in the post-war period. It is associated with a period of expansion at ANU in the late 1950s-60s, when it began to accommodate undergraduate students. Designed by architects Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb, the building is also of representative significance, for its demonstration of the principal characteristics of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style and as a set-piece design in the ANU Acton campus context.	30 June 2030	Historic	Based on the information in the nomination, the place may meet one or more of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria (s.341D). Strong case for Commonwealth Heritage values around expansion of the education sector and planning of the ANU. Also includes a Heritage Management Plan with a detailed significance assessment.