

Wilderness, natural beauty or rare
or unique environment values

- involve construction of buildings, roads, or other structures, vegetation clearance, or other actions with substantial, long-term or permanent impacts on relevant values, and
- introduce noise, odours, pollutants or other intrusive elements with substantial, long-term or permanent impacts on relevant values.

World Heritage properties with cultural heritage values

An action is likely to have a significant impact on cultural heritage values of a World Heritage property if there is a real chance or possibility that the action will:

Historic heritage values

- permanently remove, destroy, damage or substantially alter the fabric⁵ of a World Heritage property
- extend, renovate, refurbish or substantially alter a World Heritage property in a manner which is inconsistent with relevant values
- permanently remove, destroy, damage or substantially disturb archaeological deposits or artefacts in a World Heritage property
- involve activities in a World Heritage property with substantial and/or long-term impacts on its values
- involve construction of buildings or other structures within, adjacent to, or within important sight lines of, a World Heritage property which are inconsistent with relevant values, and
- make notable changes to the layout, spaces, form or species composition in a garden, landscape or setting of a World Heritage property which are inconsistent with relevant values.

⁵ 'Fabric' means physical material including structural elements and other components, fixtures, fittings, contents and items with historic value

Other cultural heritage values
including Indigenous heritage values

- restrict or inhibit the existing use of a World Heritage property as a cultural or ceremonial site causing its values to notably diminish over time;
- permanently diminish the cultural value of a World Heritage property for a community or group to which its values relate
- alter the setting of a World Heritage property in a manner which is inconsistent with relevant values
- remove, damage, or substantially disturb cultural artefacts, or ceremonial objects, in a World Heritage property, and
- permanently damage or obscure rock art or other cultural or ceremonial features with World Heritage values.

Notes:

- The above examples are general examples and their application will depend on the individual values of each World Heritage property. Alteration or disturbance which is small in scale may have a significant impact if a feature or component of a World Heritage property embodies values that are particularly sensitive or important.
- To have a significant impact on World Heritage values, it is not necessary for an action to impact upon the whole of a World Heritage property, all of the values of a World Heritage property, or a whole value of a World Heritage property. It is sufficient if an action is likely to have a significant impact on a part, element, or feature of a World Heritage property, which embodies, manifests, shows, or contributes to the values of that property.

Further Information on World Heritage properties

The following information on World Heritage properties is available on the Department's web site:

- General information: www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/index.html