

Sydney Opera House

Our Commitment to Heritage Conservation

Who We Are

The Sydney Opera House is an architectural icon, internationally renowned performing arts centre and Australia's premier tourist destination.

Tubowgule, the traditional Gadigal land upon which the Opera House stands, has been a gathering place for storytelling, ceremony and celebration for thousands of years. That tradition continues today. The vibrant cultural precinct attracts more than 10 million visitors each year, stages 1,800 performances attended by more than 1.5 million people, and hosts more than 550,000 people on guided tours.

Conceived by Danish architect Jørn Utzon, the Opera House was realised by the collective creativity of many engineers, builders and architects. Its heritage significance, based on its twin roles as an architectural monument and a dynamic, world-class performing arts centre, was formally recognised and protected through registration on the State Register (2003) and National Heritage List (2005). In 2007, the Opera House was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list as a "masterpiece of human creative genius".

Our Heritage

The epitome of excellence and creativity, the Opera House elevates and enriches the human experience. Our heritage significance is founded in:

- The spirit of Tubowgule and the connection to country. In continuing the cultural traditions of the Gadigal, we seek to foster a shared sense of belonging;
- The Opera House's function, form, materials, colour, spaces and setting; and
- The alchemy of the performing arts, architecture, design and the community, which has played a central role in our culture and identity.

As proud custodians of the Opera House, we conserve and manage its heritage significance through our Conservation Management Plan and in line with our mission:

- To treasure and renew the Opera House for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors; and
- To inspire, and strengthen the community, through everything we do.

Our Commitment

What we do matters. Consistent with our organisational vision, mission and values, we will:

- Conserve all aspects of the Opera House's heritage significance for current and future generations through the implementation of our Conservation Management Plan;
- Strengthen our knowledge, skills and understanding of the Opera House, embedding heritage conservation practice throughout the organisation;
- Meet our State, National and World Heritage obligations;
- Demonstrate excellence and leadership in heritage conservation, setting benchmarks and evaluating ourselves to ensure best practice;
- Respect our heritage significance in everything we do, encouraging innovation and collaboration; and
- Tell compelling and meaningful stories about the Opera House's heritage significance and conservation activities to local and global communities on-site and online.

