

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an individual

Firstly I strongly support a National Cultural Policy

I firmly believe our natural heritage needs to be constantly and consistently incorporated into a vast array of cultural projects and not separated into science or education. Our natural heritage is an integral part of our culture and our identity.

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you?

First Nations

I don't have authority to speak about this but my personal view is to not **always** separate First Nations culture out from general cultural events and activities. I believe when it is constantly incorporated it naturally becomes a natural and accepted part of community life and history and part of the Australian culture as a whole. **We learn so much about our natural heritage** from First Nations expertise and practice.

A Place for Every Story

Every place has its own natural heritage, its own unique landscapes, habitats and wildlife. There is a lifetime and more of content here!

The Centrality of the Artist

Representation of our natural heritage when it cannot be experienced first-hand is key to understanding and promoting Australia's biodiversity.

Strong Institutions

We have plenty of strong scientific institutions but most of the organisations promoting Australia's threatened species are privately run. We need to come together as a community and as a government to spread awareness to our children as well as the wider community.

Reaching the Audience

Easy – through kindy and school programs and learning resources such as Reading Eggs that are **actually tailored to our own cultural identity** instead of just re hashing a Northern American program. This has long term impacts for the future of our natural heritage - if the profile of a threatened species is raised within the community, the opportunities for conservation and increased protection of our biodiversity is raised also.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

A policy that **educates our children about our own Natural heritage** – which is part of our cultural identity in every aspect.

Quite frankly I think it's a national disgrace when a child can list 10 American / European/ African animals and no Australian ones.