







Climate change principles for Heritage NSW

	Principal	Description
	1. Taking a values-based approach: understanding the values of the place or object	Heritage values are dynamic and change over time. Policy and actions to manage the impacts of climate change on heritage places and objects should take a values-based approach that is inclusive of tangible and intangible heritage, natural, community and economic values. Understanding how heritage values are reflected in the fabric of a place is a prerequisite for the assessment of, and responses to, climate risks to heritage places and objects.
	2. Engaging communities	Information about climate change risks to heritage places and objects should be provided to communities. Community knowledge should inform assessment of risks and the management of climate change impacts to heritage values. Communities should be provided with access to the results of risk assessments and with opportunities to participate in decision making.
	3. Evidence-based decision making	Actions to manage the impacts of climate change must be based on comprehensive analysis of current climate science, climate change projections and hazards and recognise the uncertainty of those projections. They must also be fully aware of the heritage values and condition of the heritage place, and the implications of loss, including economic. It should be recognised that local conditions and circumstances will likely have the greatest bearing on the extent and nature of the impacts.

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	4. Assessing risks and resilience	Assessment of the risks of climate change to heritage values, and the vulnerability of individual places and objects to those risks and their capacity for adaptation, is fundamental for risk preparedness and building resilience. Assessments of vulnerability to climate change hazards must recognise that climate change impacts to heritage values are diverse and may be short or long-term and cumulative, and they could include complete loss. Assessment of risk and resilience should guide action.
	5. Responsive strategies	Strategies for adaptation and mitigation should be responsive to the scale and severity of the impact while at the same time recognising and planning for the inevitable loss of some heritage places and objects. Strategies will need to be flexible and innovative to deal with uncertainty in managing climate change impacts. Possible approaches should be widely shared across government and communities. These approaches may include nature-based solutions that offer long term protection against flooding, storms, and sea-level rise.
	6. Integrating management approaches	Climate change compounds existing threats to heritage values. Management of climate change impacts should be integrated into existing and new heritage management plans. Existing management processes and methods may need to change. Climate change should be added to risk registers and regularly review both the identified risks and mitigation measures. Embodied energy in heritage places and the potential contribution of adaptation measures to greenhouse emissions should be considered. Assessment and management of climate change impacts to heritage values should be integrated into climate change policies and actions across government agencies and all levels of government.