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Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment logo

**Finalised Priority Assessment List for the National Heritage List for 2022–23**

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| **Name of Place** | **Description** | **Assessment Completion Date** | **Main Classification** | **Reasons for Inclusion** |
| North Pole Dome / Meentheena (WA) | The North Pole Dome and Meentheena sites provide the best preserved, oldest and most complete record of early life on Earth. The North Pole Dome contains some of the best preserved, oldest geology in Australia and provides evidence of life on Earth from 3.5 to 2.7 billion years ago. Meentheena is a world-best example of fossilised stromatolites, when oxygen was first released into the atmosphere allowing multicellular life to develop. These sites are being studied for clues of where to find life on other planets. In addition, early geological processes are visible including impact from meteorites, volcanism, and rifting. | 30 June 2027 | Historic | The place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria (s.324D).  Further information and support were received following the Year 1 nomination from relevant WA Government departments, the WA Premier and the nominator himself which addressed issues in relation to consultation and ownership. |
| Binthi Warra Indigenous Heritage Places ‘Thaman’ and ‘Yirmbal’ (QLD) | Binthi Country is a dynamic cultural and natural landscape that demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Islander people adapt and modify their traditions, kin structures and practices to maintain their connection to country, culture and identity. Binthi country has importance as part of Indigenous tradition and creation beings and spirits, people and land and water. The unique cultural and natural landscape, and the rich tradition of Binthi Country’s undisturbed sacred and special sites, are exemplary at the National level. The natural features and landscapes have cultural significance as they intrinsically link people to place and enable cultural connections with country, including tangible and intangible cultural heritage, foreshores and coastal parabolic dunes, sand hills, and areas of biogeographical significance, such as natural wetlands, permanent and semi-permanent waterholes, natural springs and particular types of native vegetation. There is a significant bora ground and marriage ceremony site near the sand dunes; the sand dunes are also associated with spirit beings and are the beginning of many traditional song lines and story lines. There are rare tropical dune systems with geological and geomorphological conservation values of international significance, wetlands, waterholes and dune lakes. There was a highly respected German missionary who helped to protect the people from genocide, language and culture loss. As a result, the Aboriginal people were forcibly moved during World War 2, as it was feared that they might cooperate with the Japanese. | 30 June 2027 | Indigenous / Natural | The place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria (s.324D).  Further information and support were received including additional mapping and evidence of key stakeholder support. It is a Traditional Owner-led nomination with strong community support. |