

**STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIA'S DELEGATION
TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
AFTER BEING ADVISED OF
SUCCESSFUL WORLD HERITAGE LISTING**

**June 28, 2007
Christchurch, New Zealand**

On behalf of the State Party, the Sydney Opera House Trust and the people of Australia, we would like to extend to the Committee and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) our sincere gratitude for your consideration and support of the nomination of Sydney Opera House.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the original design competition that gave us the Sydney Opera House – a building that came to define a city and a nation. So it is particularly fitting that at this time the building is recognised as a masterpiece of human creative genius.

The Committee's decision is testament to the vision, skill and innovation of Danish architect Jørn Utzon, along with the achievements of British engineers Ove Arup, the team of Australian architects and hundreds of construction workers.

Together this exceptional team transformed the hand-sketched, jagged lines of his original design into reality.

The building is timeless – a masterful synthesis of ancient and modern architectural traditions that stretched the boundaries of the possible. Today this magnificent urban sculpture inhabits its harbour home with such grace that it appears to have grown there by nature.

An exhilarating celebration of human creativity, it unfailingly delights, inspires and raises the human spirit.

It is our very great joy and honour to share this exquisite gift with the world.

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