Intangible cultural heritage and place: A new Practice Note

• Purpose
• Development
• Scope & content
• Key issues
• Next steps

National Scientific Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage
Purpose

- Promote recognition of intangible cultural heritage in place-based heritage practice
- Clarify and link the work of Australia ICOMOS and the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
- To establish specific concepts and terms
- To help place-based heritage practitioners become more confident in addressing intangible cultural heritage
- To provide a foundation for the development of a tool kit by the NSC-ICH
Development

- Idea launched May 2014
- Working Group established
- Developed ideas through meetings and workshops – at Port Fairy (2015) NSC members contributed
- Research and analysis
- Drafting
- Review – an external, expert Reference Group
- Refinement by a small Writing Group
- Sign-off by the NSC-ICH Executive Committee

Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape (Vic)
Scope & content

- Focus is on place
- Defines intangible cultural heritage:
  - Intangible cultural heritage means the diversity of cultural practices created by communities and groups of people over time and recognised by them as part of their heritage.
- Defines cultural practices as encompassing all the UNESCO domains
- Recognises communities and groups in a similar way to NHL and current practice
- Recognises that intangible cultural heritage is an attribute of place not a value
- Uses examples to illustrate the link between intangible cultural heritage and place
Key issues

The Practice Note uses **issues** to frame the guidance offered:

- **Issue 1**: Intangible cultural heritage is overlooked
- **Issue 2**: Appreciating the relationship between place and cultural practices
- **Issue 3**: Assessing significance
- **Issue 4**: In documenting a place, how are cultural practices recorded?
- **Issue 5**: Sustaining cultural practices
- **Issue 6**: Cultural practices have ceased

The Practice Note also offers key Resources.
Next steps

• Final tweaks to the Practice Note
  – Images – pending permissions
  – A few edits/corrections
• Adoption of the Practice Note by the EC
• The Practice Note being a ‘live document’ for 12 months - that is open for comment, testing, development etc.
• A workshop on 20 October in Canberra aligned with the EC meeting – it will be focused on the Practice Note and strengthening recognition of intangible cultural heritage in place-based practice
Questions & discussion

Aboriginal fish traps, Brewarrina (NSW)

Loong, Chinese Dragon - Bendigo