

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway



<https://www.railway-technology.com/projects/alice/>

A case study in understanding, conserving and safeguarding indigenous intangible cultural heritage in Central Australia.

BACKGROUND

- **The protection of intangible cultural heritage in the NT of Australia has been enshrined in legislation since 1976**
- **1982 and 1998 funds were secured & the heritage survey began along the ASP to DWN railway line 200m x 1420km.**
- **The heritage survey involved Traditional Owners from 69 Aboriginal communities, 17 Aboriginal languages and dozens of Aboriginal landowning groups.**
- **Railway corridor was crisscrossed by dozens of ancient mythological dreaming tracks associated with hundreds of sacred sites.**

BACKGROUND

- **The proposed corridor was realigned and redesigned in multiple sections in order to avoid or minimise impact to places with intangible cultural heritage elements.**
- **The construction of the railway line began in 2001 and took three years. A range of work restrictions were implemented to safeguard sacred sites.**
- **In 2004 the first train travelled along the slightly curved track respecting the ancient landscape.**

HOW DOES THIS CASE STUDY RELATE TO ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 ICOMOS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE & PLACE PRACTICE NOTE?

- **ISSUE: It is common for Intangible cultural heritage to be overlooked**
- **ISSUE: Appreciating the relationship between place and cultural practices**
- **ISSUE: Cultural practices may contribute to the cultural significance of a place**
- **ISSUE: Sustaining cultural practices**



THANK YOU

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