

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

for Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide will assist community groups, delivering on-ground projects and activities in Victoria to better understand the State's Aboriginal cultural heritage management process.

The purpose of the guide is to step out the process for meeting the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and to determine if a Cultural Heritage Permit should be applied for. This guide will assist you to assess the impact zone of your activity, identify areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, determine the need to apply for Aboriginal cultural heritage approval before commencing on-ground works. It also provides the Key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Contacts for your region, including: the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).

The guide has been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in collaboration with members of the Landcare community, Aboriginal Victoria, Registered Aboriginal Parties, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and Catchment Management Authorities to:

- raise awareness, knowledge and appreciation for all Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria
- assist the community to understand their obligations and requirements to ensure compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*
- build the capability and capacity of both Landcare and Traditional Owners to partner for the delivery of environmental outcomes.

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



STEP 1

Does the activity disturb or impact the ground?

YES Proceed to **Step 2**

NO A Cultural Heritage Permit is not required, proceed with caution.
This does not guarantee there is no risk to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH).*

READ BEFORE PROCEEDING

Before proceeding any further with the guide please check the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) online map tool on the Aboriginal Victoria website under the Heritage section, or visit <https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/onlinemap> (direct link).

Using the online map tool – Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity are shaded green. Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity are areas that are either known to contain, or likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects.

STEP 2

Do any of the works that disturb or impact the ground occur within the mapped areas of cultural heritage sensitivity?

YES Proceed to **Step 3**

NO A Cultural Heritage Permit is not required, proceed with caution.
This does not guarantee there is no risk to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH).*

READ BEFORE PROCEEDING

To proceed beyond this point, you must engage a key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage contact for access to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register Information System (ACHRIS) to determine the nature of Aboriginal cultural heritage within proposed works area.

In the unlikely event that any of your works **are** within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity and if any of your works **are** listed as a **high impact activity** as described in *The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* you will require a Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) – please contact your key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Contacts for advice on how to proceed.

STEP 3

Do any of the works that disturb or impact the ground occur within a 50-metre buffer zone of a registered Aboriginal place?

YES Proceed to **Step 4**

NO A Cultural Heritage Permit is not required, proceed with caution.
This does not guarantee there is no risk to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH).*

STEP 4

Can the activity be altered to avoid the registered Aboriginal place?

NO Proceed to **Step 5**

YES A Cultural Heritage Permit is not required, proceed with caution.
This does not guarantee there is no risk to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH).*

STEP 5

Do any of the works that disturb or impact the ground involve the use of machinery or explosives?

YES A Cultural Heritage Permit for an activity that will, or is likely to, **HARM** Aboriginal cultural heritage is likely to be required (s.36(1)c)) of the Act.
A cost may be incurred.

NO A Cultural Heritage Permit for an activity that will, or is likely to, **REHABILITATE LAND** at an Aboriginal place is likely to be required (s.36(1)f)) of the Act.
No cost incurred.

Permit applications must be made to the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area the application is in. If there is no RAP appointed, the application is made to the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Further investigation and activity planning may be required to inform an application.

* Aboriginal Cultural Heritage may be found during works at any time, at any place, if suspected heritage is discovered, work is to cease and a *Preliminary Report Form* must be completed and sent to vahr@dpc.vic.gov.au. It is important not to further disturb anything or take any of the materials that you are reporting. If suspected human remains are uncovered, please contact the Victorian Police and State Coroner's Office immediately.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Contacts

Registered Aboriginal Parties

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are Victorian Aboriginal organisations that manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage within a determined area. RAPs hold decision-making responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and are continuously working to understand, educate and protect their cultural heritage. RAPs are the key contact for any Aboriginal cultural heritage business.

There are 11 RAPs in Victoria covering approximately 66% of the state. See below for their contact information:

Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: ch@bglc.com.au
Ph: 03 5381 0977
Web: bglc.com.au

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: admin@bunuronglc.org.au
Ph: 03 9770 1273
Web: bunuronglc.org.au

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

E: ceo@djadjawurrung.com.au
Ph: 03 5444 2888
Web: djadjawurrung.com.au

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

E: enquiry@easternmaar.com.au
Web: easternmaar.com.au

First Peoples of Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation

E: culturalheritage@fpmmac.com.au
Ph: 0457 320 746

Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation

E: chm@glawac.com
Ph: 03 5152 5100
Web: gunaikurnai.org

Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

E: bill@gunditjmirring.com
Ph: 03 5527 1427
Web: gunditjmirring.com

Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: culturalheritage@taungurung.com.au
Ph: 03 5784 1433
Web: Taungurung.com.au

Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation

E: paul@wathcorp.com.au
Ph: 03 4308 0420
Web: Wadawurrung.org.au

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

E: alex@wurundjeri.com.au
Ph: 03 8673 0901
Web: Wurundjeri.com.au

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

E: wade.m@yynac.com.au
Ph: 03 5832 0206
Web: yynac.com.au

Aboriginal Victoria

Phone: 1800 762 003 Email: Aboriginal.Heritage@dpc.vic.gov.au
Web: <https://w.www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/>

If your proposed work area does not have an appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, you must seek cultural heritage advice from Aboriginal Victoria.

Key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 & Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018: <https://w.www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/aboriginal-heritage-act-2006-and-the-aboriginal-heritage-regulations-2018.html>

Cultural Heritage Permit process: <https://w.www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/planning-and-heritage-management-processes/cultural-heritage-permit-process.html>

Reporting a possible Aboriginal place or object: <https://w.www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/protection-of-aboriginal-places-and-objects/report-and-protect-a-possible-aboriginal-place-or-object.html>

For information on what Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is, and what it can look like, please see the

Aboriginal Victoria Mini-Poster Series: <https://w.www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-publications.html>

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