Ask First

A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Messages

A MESSAGE FROM THE AHC CHAIRMAN

Planning and development decisions can unwittingly affect the values of Indigenous heritage places. Sometimes this is because those making the decisions perceive Indigenous heritage issues as complex and find them difficult to discuss with Indigenous communities. Over the last quarter of a century, the Australian Heritage Commission has worked to increase people's understanding about Indigenous heritage places and their conservation.

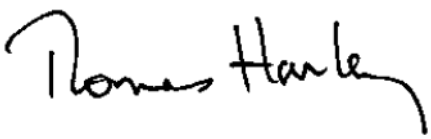
Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values provides a practical guide for land developers, land users and managers, cultural heritage professionals and many others who may have an impact on Indigenous heritage. The title - *Ask First* - is the message of this book; that consultation and negotiation with Indigenous stakeholders is the best means of addressing Indigenous heritage issues. It is also the first, and simplest step that people need to take, and that is to put the subject on the agenda.

The Commission has promoted guidelines to help Australians protect different aspects of their natural and cultural heritage places, including the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, 1999, and the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*. *Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values* will fill an important role in complementing these guides.

Maintaining heritage values and places is a vital part of the community's 'sense of place', cultural identity and well-being. This is particularly true for Indigenous Australians, whose heritage creates and maintains links between ancestors, people and the land.

The entirely different nature of Indigenous heritage and lack of familiarity or awareness in the wider community of the issues associated with it makes this guide both timely and important.

By using this guide and working together, we can ensure that the rights and interests of Indigenous people in maintaining their heritage is accepted and respected. I have no doubt that in doing so, all Australians will benefit.



Tom Harley
Chairman
Australian Heritage Commission

A MESSAGE FROM THE INDIGENOUS COMMISSIONER

Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values builds on previous work by the Commission in developing policy and guidelines for consultation with Indigenous people in relation to heritage. This includes the ground-breaking 1989 report *Consultation with Aboriginal people about Aboriginal heritage* prepared by one of my predecessors, Indigenous Commissioner, Dr Bill Jonas AM. It also includes the internal policies developed by the Commission on consultation with Indigenous people about heritage places and on the use of images of those places.

At critical moments, members of an Indigenous Focus Group provided direction and shape to the process set out in *Ask First*. Without this input *Ask First* would have been a very different and, I believe, less useful document. The focus group also recommended the process of wider consultation with mining, industry and other stakeholders, recognising that the final document had to be useful to a broad range of interest groups.

The broad support demonstrated through the industry consultation process highlights the need for a document that will assist non-Indigenous people in working with Indigenous heritage. I also hope that Indigenous people will find the process outlined in *Ask First* a useful adjunct to community protocols.

The Commission would appreciate feedback from those who use the guidelines. Feedback can be e-mailed to ahc@ea.gov.au.

Dr Gaye Sculthorpe
Commissioner
Australian Heritage Commission

Background and Definitions

Indigenous heritage is a unique, irreplaceable part of Australia's national cultural heritage that requires greater recognition and protection. The Australian Heritage Commission has developed a set of consultation guidelines to help developers, researchers, cultural heritage professionals and other land users deal with issues relating to the identification, management and use of Indigenous heritage places and values. The Commission also hopes that Indigenous people will find the guide, in conjunction with their own protocols for consultation, useful when dealing with projects or activities that may impact on their heritage places and values.

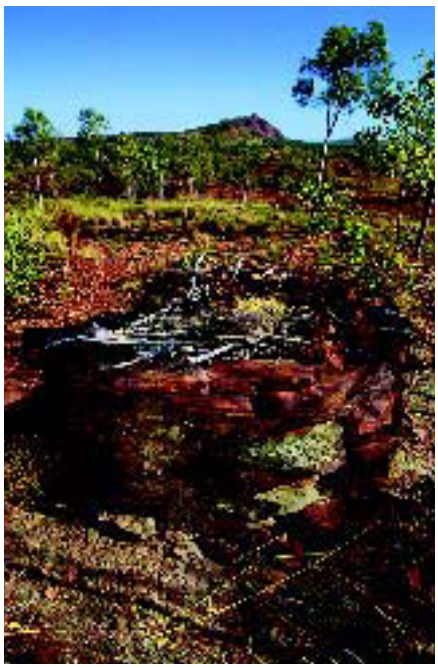
The consultation guidelines build on earlier work undertaken in the 1990s by the then-Department of Communication and the Arts to develop the *Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Places* (the draft guidelines). Protocols for Indigenous heritage management developed by Indigenous communities and organisations, industry, heritage practitioners, the Commonwealth, State governments and comments on the original draft guidelines were considered when developing *Ask First*. The Commission's Indigenous Focus Group provided invaluable input during the development of this publication.

Heritage professionals and communities who have worked with the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter)* or the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance* will notice a different emphasis in *Ask First*. This publication focuses on allowing the relevant Indigenous people to determine the significance of places in accordance with their culture before moving to achieving agreements between parties on how places and heritage values should be managed. As such, it complements the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter* and the *Burra Charter*.

Ask First's consultation guidelines are divided into five sections. The first section describes the background to the publication and provides definitions for some of the terms used. The next section describes the purpose of Indigenous heritage conservation and provides a few key principles on Indigenous heritage conservation. The main part of the document is the consultation and negotiation process, which is set out in the third section. The fourth section is a bibliography and the final section lists Commonwealth, State and Territory heritage contacts.

The consultation and negotiation process is divided into three major stages: Initial Consultation; Identifying Indigenous Heritage Places and Values; and Managing Indigenous Heritage Places. Each stage is divided into smaller actions with the issues that need to be considered. In addition there are some hints to help people address issues and examples of Indigenous heritage management practices.

One of the difficulties associated with a proposed project or activity that involves an Indigenous heritage place and values may be disagreement between Indigenous people. A set of simple hints is provided on dealing with such disputes.



Aboriginal hide for hawk hunting, Keep River National Park, NT.

Source: Skyscans Australia

DEFINITIONS

Indigenous heritage is dynamic. It includes tangible and intangible expressions of culture that link generations of Indigenous people over time. Indigenous people express their cultural heritage through 'the person', their relationships with country, people, beliefs, knowledge, law, language, symbols, ways of living, sea, land and objects all of which arise from Indigenous spirituality.

Indigenous heritage places are landscapes, sites and areas that are particularly important to Indigenous people as part of their customary law, developing traditions, history and current practices. All Indigenous heritage places have associated Indigenous heritage values.

Indigenous heritage values include spirituality, law, knowledge, practices, traditional resources or other beliefs and attachments.

The precautionary approach is taken where an activity involves a risk of significant irreversible damage to a place. Uncertainty about heritage values at the place should not be used as justification for proceeding with that activity. This approach should be used when there is uncertainty or debate over the significance of a place to ensure that heritage values are not damaged.

Traditional Owners are those people who, through membership in a descent group or clan, have responsibility for caring for particular country. Traditional Owners are authorised to speak for country and its heritage. Authorisation to speak for country and heritage may be as a senior traditional owner, an elder, or in more recent times, as a registered Native Title claimant.

Other Indigenous people with interests are those people who through their personal or family history of involvement with a particular place have an interest in its heritage values. Such places could include, but are not limited to, mission stations, places of Indigenous protest, and areas of land where people worked. Sometimes these people are described as custodians, but this can mean different things in different areas of Australia. In some areas custodians are responsible for looking after places and sometimes the stories and ceremonies linked to these places. In other areas custodians are Indigenous people who look after a place on behalf of others.

The relevant Indigenous people (a term used throughout the document) are the Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people with interests in a place.

Indigenous Heritage Conservation

Indigenous cultural heritage exists throughout the lands and waters of Australia and all aspects of the landscape may be important to Indigenous people as part of their heritage. The rights and interests of Indigenous people in their heritage arise from their spirituality, customary law, original ownership, custodianship, developing Indigenous traditions and recent history. The effective protection and conservation of this heritage is important in maintaining the identity, health and well being of Indigenous people. Maintaining Indigenous heritage should also ensure a continuing role for these people in caring for country, something that benefits everyone.

Indigenous heritage is a central element in Indigenous spirituality and customary law. Its conservation ensures continued respect for Indigenous ancestors and ancestral beings who shaped the land and waterways. Many Indigenous groups have a relationship of mutual obligation with certain animals or plants. This spiritual relationship is an important aspect of Indigenous cultural heritage that should not be overlooked. Indigenous heritage places are also part of the story of Indigenous people including their recent history of resistance, survival and cultural revival.

PURPOSE

Indigenous heritage conservation and management aims to sustain the relationship between Indigenous people and their heritage places in such a way that the heritage values of each place are maintained for present and future generations of all Australians.

Indigenous cultural heritage exists throughout the lands and waters of Australia and all aspects of the landscape may be important to Indigenous people as part of their heritage

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

PRINCIPLES

In recognising the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples in their heritage, all parties concerned with identifying, conserving and managing this heritage should acknowledge, accept and act on the principles that Indigenous people:

- are the primary source of information on the value of their heritage and how this is best conserved;
- must have an active role in any Indigenous heritage planning process;
- must have input into primary decision-making in relation to Indigenous heritage so they can continue to fulfil their obligations towards this heritage; and
- must control intellectual property and other information relating specifically to their heritage, as this may be an integral aspect of its heritage value.

In identifying and managing this heritage:

- uncertainty about Indigenous heritage values at a place should not be used to justify activities that might damage or desecrate this heritage;
- all parties having relevant interests should be consulted on Indigenous heritage matters; and
- the process and outcomes of Indigenous heritage planning must abide by customary law, relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory laws, relevant International treaties and covenants and any other legally binding agreements.

Adhering to cultural restrictions on information about an Indigenous heritage place is essential to maintaining its heritage value.

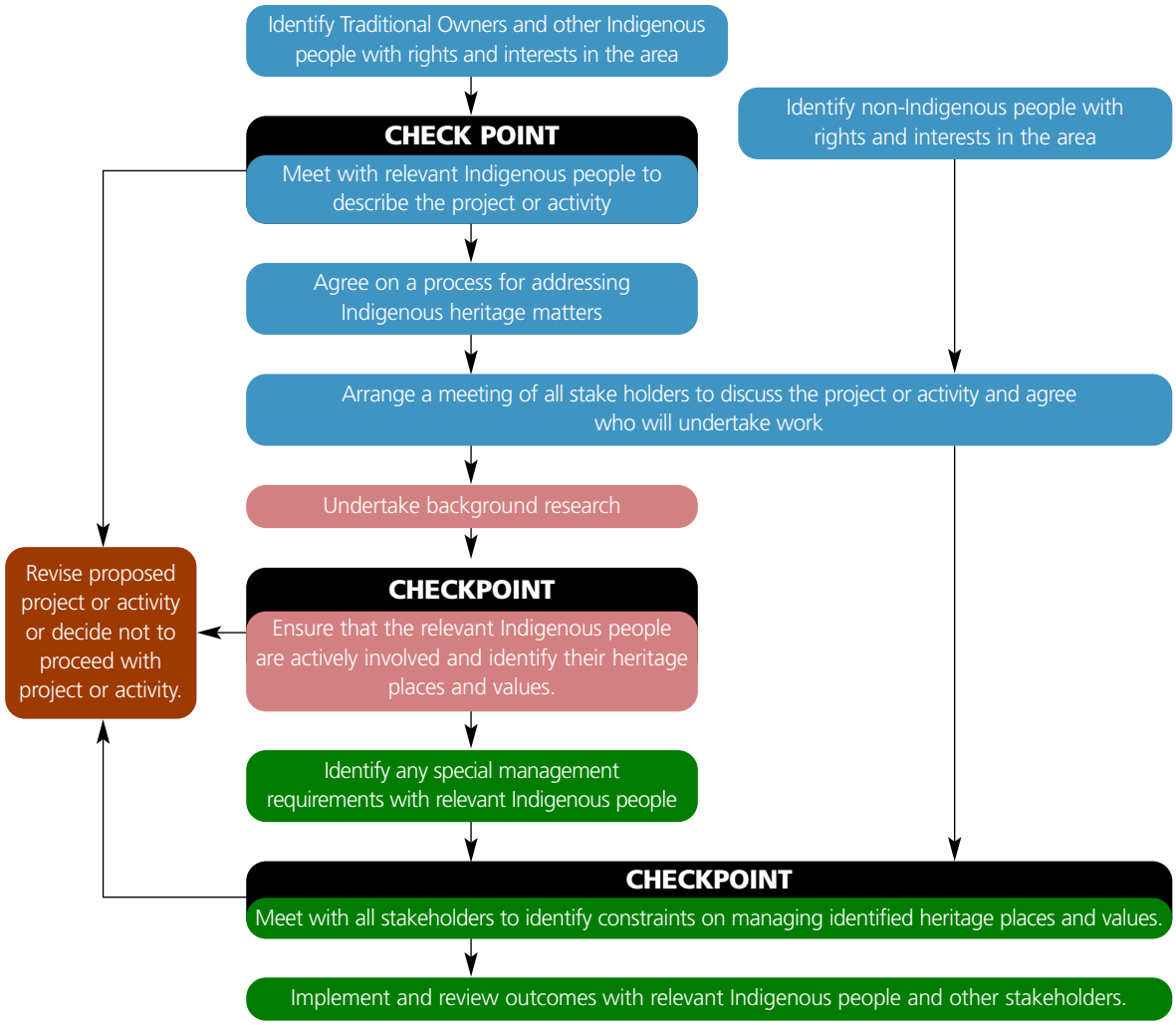
INVOLVING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Consultation and negotiation are central to the Indigenous heritage management process outlined in this document. It is important to recognise that Indigenous people often have a broad range of issues that they need to address and your project or activity may not be an immediate priority. Negotiating the level of involvement of the relevant Indigenous people is an important part of the early negotiation process.

In some cases Indigenous people may be happy to be kept informed about the project or activity, while in other cases they may want more active involvement. The process outlined in this document covers instances where the relevant Indigenous people wish to be actively involved and it will need to be modified where Indigenous people are comfortable with simply being informed about progress on a project. However, it is recommended that the relevant Indigenous people formally agree when a different process is negotiated.

The Indigenous Heritage Management process

FIG.1 PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE PLACES



At each checkpoint do the following:

ACTIONS

- Establish if Indigenous people agree to the project or activity.
- Accept that Indigenous people may not articulate the reasons for opposing a project or activity particularly where it may impact on an important heritage place.

HINTS

- Consider applying the precautionary approach where Indigenous people do not support the project or activity, recognising that Indigenous people may use State/Territory legislation to protect their heritage.
- Revise the project and return to the checkpoint at phase two.

Initial Consultation

IDENTIFY TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA

ACTIONS

- Identify Indigenous people with rights and interests in a place, especially Indigenous people authorised to speak for a place, taking into account that Indigenous people will have differing degrees of knowledge about heritage places and their importance.
- Ensure both men and women with rights and interests in the area are identified because men and women may be responsible for different heritage places and values.
- Identify Indigenous people who may not necessarily be Traditional Owners but who have interests in an area so that any effects of the project or activity on the Indigenous heritage values of places such as mission stations and historic buildings will be identified.
- Investigate whether the interests of Indigenous people from surrounding areas may also be affected by a project or activity. For example activities that affect water flows will require consultation with communities downstream of the project or activity.
- Identify and adhere to any process or protocols that Indigenous people have established for consultation.
- Undertake consultation for each new project unless Traditional Owners and other interested Indigenous people agree that this is not necessary.

HINTS

- Aboriginal Land Councils, Regional ATSIC offices, state heritage agencies, State Aboriginal Affairs offices/departments, the National Native Title Tribunal, Native Title representative bodies, Native Title claimants and Prescribed Body Corporates under the Native Title Act, can provide advice on how to identify the relevant authorised and other Indigenous people with interests in a place.
- It may be appropriate for separate male and female teams to undertake consultation.
- It is advisable for the project team to develop a relationship with the relevant Indigenous people and not leave this solely to paid consultants.

IDENTIFY NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA

ACTIONS

- Identify other landowners, lessees, local councils, State/Territory Government agencies and Commonwealth Government departments and in some cases tourist and recreational groups who have rights and interests in the area.

MEET WITH RELEVANT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO DESCRIBE THE PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

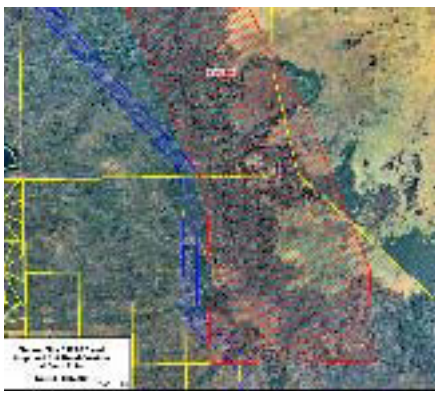
ACTIONS

Make the description of the project or activity factual and clear. Remember to:

- outline any potential implications of the project (financial, cultural, environmental, educational and others);
- any prior discussions and agreements with third parties (eg State agencies) and other stakeholders (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) that need to be consulted,
- provide people with any relevant documentation, including maps of the area being discussed;
- allow time for Indigenous people to decide whether they wish to become involved in the activity or project;
- check on whether you need to describe the project to other Indigenous groups. Ensure that all Indigenous groups receive the same information and that this is sufficient for them to provide informed consent; and
- respect Indigenous people's right to choose the time and location of the meetings.

HINTS

- Offer assistance with mediation where more than one group has an interest in or traditional links to an area. This may assist in obtaining agreement as to who needs to be involved in the project.
- Where groups are in dispute, focus on developing ways of protecting heritage that can be agreed to by all parties.
- It may be appropriate for this consultation to occur in smaller groups rather than large meetings.



Provide people with any relevant documentation, including maps of the area being discussed

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Large, medium and small projects may affect Indigenous heritage places and values. This housing subdivision is an example of a medium sized project.

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

AGREE ON A PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MATTERS

ACTIONS

- Agree on the manner, timing and level of consultation and involvement required for the project.
- Decide who will hold copyright over any work undertaken with Indigenous people to identify or establish management regimes for Indigenous heritage places.
- Decide whether separate reports should be produced for male and female Traditional Owners and another that is open access (has restricted information removed).
- Determine whether there is a need to help resource the dissemination of the results of any work, the process for obtaining comment from Indigenous people on reports and how many copies of the final report are required.
- Agree on processes for obtaining informed consent from Indigenous people to display any information gathered, including publishing on the Internet.
- Formalise any protocols and agreements.
- Involve Indigenous people in developing Terms of Reference for any consultancies.
- Include Indigenous people in selection processes for any consultants and seek their agreement to the appointment of specialists employed on the activity or project.
- Identify the resources required to maintain community involvement (for example arranging travel to meetings, payments for surveys).

HINTS

Involving Indigenous people from the initial stages of a project or activity will allow mutually agreed processes and time lines to be developed that take into account the priorities of Indigenous people. This may also assist in developing mutual trust and a positive working relationship.

Describing a project or activity to Indigenous people

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

ARRANGE A MEETING OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT OR ACTIVITY AND AGREE WHO WILL UNDERTAKE WORK

ACTIONS

- Arrange an early meeting of all the identified stakeholders to provide a forum where Indigenous people can explain issues relating to Indigenous heritage to non-Indigenous stakeholders. Such a meeting also helps to ensure that Indigenous issues are made visible to the wider community and recognises the need to negotiate with Indigenous people.
- Agree upon processes for mediating and resolving disputes between parties that may arise during the course of the project (see Dealing with Disputes below).
- Consider adopting a precautionary approach in cases where Indigenous people refuse to be involved in a project. This prevents the possibility of damage or desecration to any Indigenous heritage places and the resultant incurrence of substantial penalties.

HINTS

- State heritage agencies can help identify any reporting or legislative requirements. Representatives from these agencies should be involved in meetings

DEALING WITH DISPUTES

Two forms of dispute may be encountered when consulting and negotiating with Indigenous people: disputes between Indigenous groups, and disputes between Indigenous stakeholders, other stakeholders and the people proposing the project or activity.

Hints for dealing with disputes within community

- Consider taking a precautionary approach. Protection of Indigenous heritage values is important no matter what competing claims are made.
- Do not become involved in disputes between Indigenous groups because Indigenous disputes need to be resolved at the community level.
- Be prepared to assist and possibly resource an appropriate independent person or body to facilitate resolution of the dispute.
- Do not try and impose unrealistic timeframes for resolving community disputes.

Hints for dealing with disputes between community, the proponent and other stakeholders

- Identify formal and informal dispute resolution processes.
- Identify and consider using culturally appropriate forms of dispute resolution (for example, meeting on country).
- Encourage everyone to use informal processes.
- Do not try and impose unrealistic timeframes for resolving disputes.

Identifying Indigenous Heritage Places and Values

UNDERTAKE BACKGROUND RESEARCH.

ACTIONS

- Include previous Indigenous cultural heritage and resource surveys in any background research.

HINTS

- Relying solely on information about Indigenous heritage contained in Government registers is not adequate as this information is rarely comprehensive.
- A project should not rely solely on previous work to establish Indigenous heritage values, as Indigenous people may not disclose the existence of some heritage places unless there is a serious and immediate threat of injury or desecration.
- Information can be sought from a number of organisations including local Indigenous organisations, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Native Title representative bodies, State heritage agencies and Local Government.

Always ask Indigenous people about their heritage – the Katawili or Dunna Dunna plant is significant to the Ngalia people of Western Australia as part of a 'Dreaming'.

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

The resistance to letting Aboriginal people swim in the Moree pool during the 1965 Freedom Ride made it a symbol of the discrimination Aboriginal people experienced in rural towns before the 1967 referendum.

Source: AHC Collection

ENSURE THAT THE RELEVANT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED AND IDENTIFY THEIR HERITAGE PLACES AND VALUES

Indigenous involvement in identification processes may be the only way to establish the location of 'Dreamings', totemic obligations, traditional food, medicine and material culture resources particularly as there may be no obvious physical evidence for past or present Indigenous use at these places. It is also the only way in which the value of a place for Indigenous people can be established.

ACTIONS

- Ensure compliance with State/Territory and Commonwealth laws by obtaining necessary permits for surveys and other activities required to identify Indigenous heritage values.
- Ensure that sensitive information disclosed in the course of identifying Indigenous heritage places and values is protected from unnecessary further disclosure.
- Record the name of custodians of information where they have more specific information about places and values.

HINTS

- Indigenous people are likely to describe the importance of a heritage place in general terms (eg it's that tree, it's a law place, it's part of women's business, it's a burial place, it's important because there are lots of medicines here, this is where our ancestors lived or this is the mission where I was taught). They may also avoid discussing heritage places and values because of cultural sensitivities, and this may be particularly true for very important spiritual places.
- Advice on permits can be obtained by contacting the relevant State/Territory heritage agency or Office of Aboriginal Affairs.
- It may be appropriate for Indigenous males and females to separately undertake the identification of heritage values and places.

Indigenous heritage may be found on land or water – the remains of an Indigenous fish trap

Source: Chrissy Grant

Managing Indigenous Heritage Places

IDENTIFY ANY SPECIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS WITH RELEVANT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Repatriation of cultural material

Source: Koori Mail

ACTIONS

- Respect that Indigenous people may need time to reach a consensus on appropriate conservation and management.
- Understand that Indigenous management of heritage places may maintain or rehabilitate any or all of the following: Indigenous customary law, the relationships with land and water, the physical material at a place as well as plant and animal diversity.
- Establish any values and issues that cannot be discussed in an open meeting of all stakeholders.

HINTS

Indigenous management requirements could cover issues like:

- protecting culturally restricted information;
- removing and/or storing cultural material; and
- repatriation of material removed from the area for analysis.

MEET WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY CONSTRAINTS ON MANAGING IDENTIFIED HERITAGE PLACES AND VALUES

ACTIONS

- Ensure consultation with other property owners, residents, local shires and in some cases tourist and recreational groups, as well as Traditional owners and Indigenous people with an interest in the area.
- Inform all groups of the heritage, social and economic values so they can take these into account when discussing management requirements.
- Provide ongoing access to and management of heritage places by Traditional Owners and other interested Indigenous people which may be essential for maintaining the Indigenous heritage value of the place.
- Apply the precautionary approach when there are differing opinions among Indigenous people about the importance of a place. Do not allow use of a place that is incompatible with one group's understanding of the heritage values of a place.
- Comply with Commonwealth and State/Territory laws and identify the full range of legal obligations that may relate to Indigenous heritage and other legal rights.

Continued over ►

HINTS

Management issues that may need to be discussed or resolved by all stakeholders include:

- employment of Indigenous people at a place where there are significant Indigenous heritage values;
- implementation of cultural awareness training for non-Indigenous people employed working with Indigenous heritage;
- resolve health, safety and Indigenous community development issues.
- access for Indigenous people (getting people on country, providing for ceremonies and educating the young);
- use of Indigenous resources; and
- access rules for non-Indigenous people including what activities a developer, researcher or other non-Indigenous land user can undertake at a place.
- procedures for mediation and dispute resolution.

Management arrangements are not completed until some form of formal agreement has been reached between all the relevant parties.

Example of signs that show restrictions on access to places

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

IMPLEMENT AND REVIEW OUTCOMES WITH RELEVANT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

ACTIONS

- Ensure all parties agree to monitoring mechanisms and apply them to management arrangements.
- Provide for management arrangements to be reviewed and if necessary
  amended in the light of changing circumstances.

HINTS

- Indigenous people may want to monitor cultural impacts, ground works or disturbance and undertake any other measures for conserving the heritage value of a place.
- Understand that Indigenous people may also seek advice from Heritage or Land Managers to address specific management issues.

Indigenous people monitoring ground disturbance for cultural impacts

Source: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Examples of Indigenous Heritage Management Practices

When Traditional Owners, Custodians and other Indigenous people manage their heritage they may maintain the value through one or more of the following approaches:

MAINTENANCE

Actions that serve to keep the existing Indigenous heritage values of a place.

EXAMPLES OF MAINTENANCE

- Restricting access by particular categories of people to some places may be required to maintain Indigenous customary law.
- Allowing Indigenous people access to places so ceremonies and other management practices can take place.
- Allowing access to traditional resources (eg food, ochre or plants) may be important in its own right or may be necessary for maintaining other cultural activities (eg ceremonies).
- Monitoring sensitive Indigenous places to ensure visitors treat them with respect.
- Recording and passing on stories about a place so that the next generation learns about its heritage value.
- Keeping natural processes (for example, water flows) that are an integral part of the significance of a place.
- Cleaning country by removing rubbish, introduced plants and other foreign material from areas. This may also include burning areas of country.
- Monitoring of earth disturbance to ensure past Indigenous camp sites are not disturbed.
- Painting at traditional art sites to ensure that law and tradition are maintained.
- Maintaining and using structures related to events in Indigenous peoples history (for example, cemeteries, mission buildings, Indigenous settlements and sites of protest).

Access to areas with grasses and sedges is necessary for the making of traditional Indigenous baskets

Source: Skyscans Australia

RESTORATION

Actions that conserve or add to the heritage value of a place.

EXAMPLES OF RESTORATION

- Trapping sand and revegetating to cover burials that are eroding out of the ground.
- Repatriating (returning) material to the place where it was found to conserve the heritage value of this material for Indigenous people.
- Reintroducing ceremonies to places.
- Using traditional or other knowledge to rebuild places such as stone arrangements and fish traps that have fallen into disrepair.
- Repairing significant historic structures.

REMOVAL

Actions to conserve heritage values by removing items from a place. This is normally a measure of last resort.

EXAMPLES OF REMOVAL

- Excavating an Aboriginal site that will be destroyed by development so that material is not lost.
- Relocating or storing cultural material to ensure its protection.

Note that the removal of material to a keeping place may be a permanent measure or an interim measure while decisions are made about repatriation.

Aboriginal area fenced to prevent access

Source: Linda Baulch

INTERPRETATION

Actions that may help change people's behaviour.

EXAMPLES OF INTERPRETATION

- Interpreting the significance of a Dreaming place to ensure culturally appropriate behaviour of visitors.
- Recording oral history about a mission and the people who lived there.

References and Resources

This guide should be used in conjunction with any protocols for consultation that Indigenous communities have developed for their area. Community protocols should be followed as closely as possible. Other resources that were consulted during the development of these guidelines or which may be of assistance include:

Aboriginal Affairs Department (Western Australia) nd. *Aboriginal Heritage and Development in Western Australia: Advice for Developers*. Perth.

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority 1995, *Heritage Protection Laws in the Northern Territory*. Darwin.

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Rose, D. 1996, *Nourishing Terrains: Australian Aboriginal views of landscape and wilderness*. Canberra.

Torres Strait Regional Authority. nd. *Protocols for Research in Torres Strait*. Thursday Island.

Commonwealth, State and Territory Heritage Agencies Contacts:

COMMONWEALTH

Department of Environment and Heritage
Phone: (02) 6274 2111
www.ea.gov.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Australian Heritage Commission
Phone (02) 6274 2111
www.ahc.gov.au

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Environment ACT
Phone: (02) 6207 9777
www.environment.act.gov.au

Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

NEW SOUTH WALES

National Parks and Wildlife Service
Phone (02) 9253 4600
www.npws.nsw.gov.au

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

NSW Heritage Office
Phone (02) 96356155
www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

NSW Heritage Act 1977

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Phone: (08) 8981 4700
www.nt.gov.au/aapa/

Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989

Department of Infrastructure Planning and the Environment
Phone: (08) 8924 4143
www.lpe.nt.gov.au

Heritage Conservation Act 1996

QUEENSLAND

Environment Protection Agency
Phone: (07) 3227 7111
www.epa.qld.gov.au

Cultural Record (Landscape Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Department of State Aboriginal Affairs
Phone (08) 8226 8900
www.dosaa.sa.gov.au

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

Department for Environment and Heritage
Phone: (08) 8204 1910
www.environment.sa.gov.au

Heritage Act 1993

TASMANIA

Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment
Phone (03) 6233 8011
www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Aboriginal Relics Act 1975

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

VICTORIA

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
Phone (03) 9637 8000
www.nre.vic.gov.au

Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Part IIA)

Heritage Victoria
Phone: (03) 9655 6519
www.heritage.vic.gov.au

Heritage Act 1995

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Indigenous Affairs
Phone: (08) 9235 8000
www.aad.wa.gov.au

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

Heritage Council of Western Australia
Phone: 1800 644 177
www.heritage.wa.gov.au

Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
Phone: (02) 6246 1111
www.aiatsis.gov.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)
Phone: (02) 6121 4000
www.atsic.gov.au

National Native Title Tribunal
Phone: 1800 640 501
www.nntt.gov.au

Native Title Representative Bodies
www.ntrb.net

For your notes

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Recommended as best practice for preparing a PER or EIS under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* when Indigenous consultation is required.

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