

# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

for Landcare and environmental  
volunteering groups and networks



July 2024

OFFICIAL



Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action



# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

*The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide* assists 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 to ensure your activity meets the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and to determine whether 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, and to 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 Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), in collaboration with members of the Landcare community, First Peoples – State Relations, Registered Aboriginal Parties, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and Catchment Management Authorities. It is designed 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** Read note below then 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 First Peoples State Relations website under the Heritage section, or visit <https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/onlinemap>.

**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 ACHRIS mapped areas of cultural heritage sensitivity?

**YES** Read note below then 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 further access to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register Information System (ACHRIS) and to determine the nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage within the proposed works area, **as described in Division 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018***, See overleaf for a list of contacts.

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 an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). Please contact your key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage contact 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** Read note below then 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).\*

READ BEFORE  
PROCEEDING

**STOP! PLEASE NOTE**, in some cases, an Aboriginal Place is marked by a signal grid point on a map. However, the site may extend beyond that point, sometimes by 100m or more. Therefore, proposed works in the area may impact Aboriginal Cultural Heritage beyond the 50-meter buffer from the grid point.

It is important to work closely with your Cultural Heritage contact to understand the site plans on the site card and ensure you know the extent of the registered Aboriginal place.

# STEP 4

Can you alter the activity 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).\*

**YES** A Cultural Heritage Permit is likely to be required for an activity that will, or is likely to, **HARM** Aboriginal cultural heritage, under (s.36(1)c) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

A cost may be incurred.

**NO** A Cultural Heritage Permit is likely to be required for an activity that will, or is likely to, **REHABILITATE LAND** at an Aboriginal place, under (s.36(1)f) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

No cost incurred.

Permit applications must be made to the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area the application is for. 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 can 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](mailto:vahr@dpc.vic.gov.au). It is important not to disturb anything further 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.

If your proposed work area does not have an appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, you must seek cultural heritage advice from First Peoples – State Relations.

#### Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: [Darren.Griffin@bglc.com.au](mailto:Darren.Griffin@bglc.com.au)

Ph: 03 5381 0977

Web: [www.bglc.com.au](http://www.bglc.com.au)

#### First Peoples of Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation

E: [norman.wilson@fpmmac.com.au](mailto:norman.wilson@fpmmac.com.au)

Ph: 03 4014 9780

Web: [www.fpmmac.com](http://www.fpmmac.com)

#### Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation

E: [rap@wadawurrung.org.au](mailto:rap@wadawurrung.org.au)

Ph: 03 5222 5889

Web: [www.wadawurrung.org.au](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au)

#### Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: [submissions@bunuronglc.org.au](mailto:submissions@bunuronglc.org.au)

Ph: 03 9770 1273

Web: [www.bunuronglc.org.au](http://www.bunuronglc.org.au)

#### Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation

E: [chm@glawac.com](mailto:chm@glawac.com)

Ph: 03 5152 5100

Web: [www.gunaikurnai.org](http://www.gunaikurnai.org)

#### Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

E: [reception@wurundjeri.com.au](mailto:reception@wurundjeri.com.au)

Ph: 03 9416 2905

Web: [www.wurundjeri.com.au](http://www.wurundjeri.com.au)

#### Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

E: [ceo@djadjawurrung.com.au](mailto:ceo@djadjawurrung.com.au)

Ph: 03 5444 2888

Web: [www.djadjawurrung.com.au](http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au)

#### Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

E: [bill@gunditjmirring.com](mailto:bill@gunditjmirring.com)

Ph: 03 5527 1427

Web: [www.gunditjmirring.com](http://www.gunditjmirring.com)

#### Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

E: [reception@yynac.com.au](mailto:reception@yynac.com.au)

Ph: 03 5832 0222

Web: [www.yynac.com.au](http://www.yynac.com.au)

#### Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

E: [craig.edwards@easternmaar.com.au](mailto:craig.edwards@easternmaar.com.au)

Ph: 0481 761 990

Web: [www.easternmaar.com.au](http://www.easternmaar.com.au)

#### Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation

E: [kthomas@tlawc.com.au](mailto:kthomas@tlawc.com.au)

Ph: 03 5784 1433

Web: [www.taungurung.com.au](http://www.taungurung.com.au)

#### [Interactive RAP Map](#)

# First Peoples – State Relations

Phone: 1800 762 003

Email: [Aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

## Key Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information

**Engaging Traditional Owners:** [Engaging Traditional Owners | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

**Aboriginal heritage legislation:** [Aboriginal heritage legislation | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

**Cultural Heritage Permit :** [Cultural Heritage Permits | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

**Aboriginal places and objects:** [Aboriginal places and objects | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

**Reporting a possible Aboriginal place or object:** [Report and protect a possible Aboriginal place or object | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

**Aboriginal places on private property:** [Fact sheet: Aboriginal Places on private property | firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au](http://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au)

[environment.vic.gov.au/landcare](http://environment.vic.gov.au/landcare)

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ISBN 978-1-76077-788-3 (pdf/online/MS word)

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