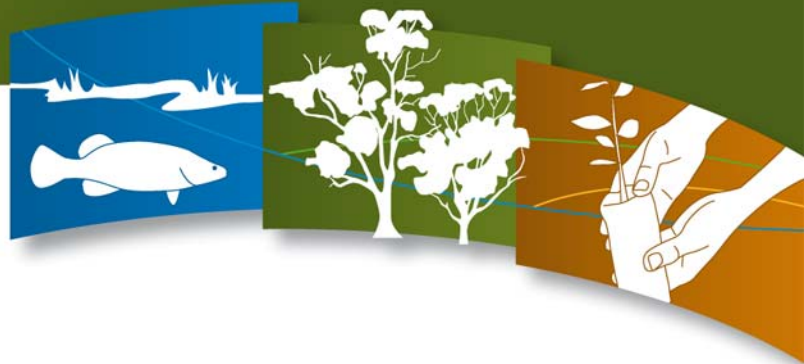


# Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for Landcare Projects

## Fact sheet



**NORTH CENTRAL**  
Catchment Management Authority  
*Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People*



Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges the important and voluntary work undertaken by the Landcare community. The North Central CMA Indigenous Facilitator is available to support and assist the Landcare community to determine any cultural heritage management requirements in compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### **The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006**

As land managers, you should be aware that the Act provides legislative protection for all Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.

The requirements in relation to new development or on-ground works and the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage are set out in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the Act) and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* (the Regulations), which can be found on the Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) website

<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/>

It is an offence to do an act that will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, except in accordance with a Cultural Heritage Permit or an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

### **Cultural Heritage Management Plans**

A CHMP is a legal document that, once approved, accompanies your application for a planning permit or statutory authorization, and provides all the necessary permission to conduct the proposed works. Should you determine that you are not required to prepare a CHMP, AAV encourages you to consider the preparation of a voluntary CHMP.

### **First Step**

As a first step, the Landcare proponent should determine the application of the Act and regulations in relation to their activity.

Information in relation to 'high impact activities' and 'areas of cultural heritage

sensitivity' are set out in the Regulations.

The AAV planning tool is also useful for determining if a CHMP is required for an activity. Maps available on the AAV website provide details about areas of cultural heritage sensitivity throughout Victoria.

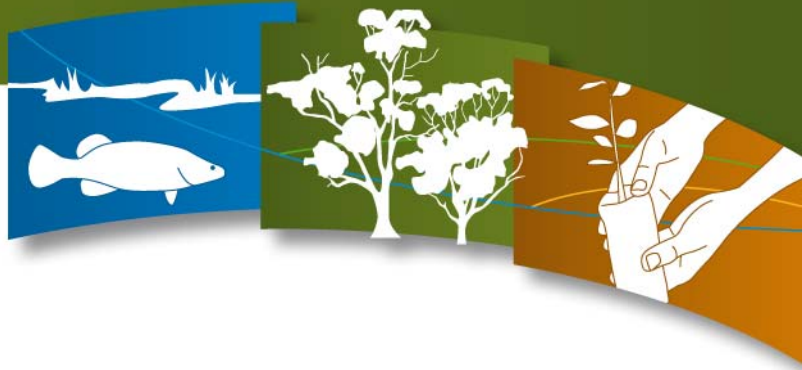
If your proposed activity requires the preparation of a CHMP the activity can not proceed until the CHMP has been prepared and approved.

### **Second Step**

If a CHMP is not required, the next step is to seek an application to search the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, application forms can be downloaded from the AAV website under publications and forms.

A register search will provide information to you on what known or registered Aboriginal places, objects or Aboriginal human remains may be present in the proposed activity area.

A Cultural Heritage Permit must be sought if your proposed activity will harm



or is likely to harm any Aboriginal cultural heritage that can not otherwise be avoided.

Where the search of the Register shows that there is no known or registered Aboriginal cultural heritage is in the proposed activity area, then the activity can proceed (only where a CHMP or Cultural Heritage Permit is not required).

As only 5% of Victoria has been surveyed for Aboriginal cultural heritage it is also recommended to undertake a survey of the area to determine if there is any unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage present, the North Central CMA Indigenous Facilitator can assist with you with this process.

### Third Step

Should any Aboriginal cultural heritage be discovered or uncovered before, during or after the activity, the following steps must be taken:

- If Aboriginal objects or places are found, stop work immediately in the vicinity of the find, and report the discovery to AAV. It is a mandatory

requirement to report the discovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Act.

- Do not remove any cultural heritage, for e.g. stone tools, shells etc.
- Should any human remains be found or uncovered, all work must stop immediately. The Police must be notified immediately. Do not remove any human remains or bone material at all. Do not contact the media.
- Any Aboriginal cultural heritage discovered before, during and after the proposed work must be avoided, and therefore, no harm is permitted at all, unless in accordance with an approved CHMP or Cultural Heritage Permit, as outlined above.



### Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

The AAV website ([www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au)) has a set of mini posters that give you images and descriptions of Aboriginal places and objects found across Victoria. You may find these useful if you are not familiar with Aboriginal cultural heritage.

For further information from AAV please contact either Dr. Diana Smith or Anne Lambert  
Ph: 03 5430 4665  
Email: [anne.lambert@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:anne.lambert@dpcd.vic.gov.au)

### For more information or support

Mark Pietzsch, Indigenous Facilitator for the North Central CMA is available to support and assist the Landcare community to determine their Aboriginal cultural heritage management needs when developing projects.

Mark can be contacted via;  
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