

Information Sheet 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage & Traditional Owners

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal people have cared for and sustainably managed Victoria's cultural landscapes for thousands of years. Aboriginal people have profound cultural, spiritual and economic connections to land, biodiversity and resources through their relationship with Country. Connectedness to land, biodiversity and resources on Country is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

The [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide](#) assists community groups delivering on-ground projects and activities in Victoria to better understand Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage management processes. Please note that if a Cultural Heritage Permit is required, you may need to include budget in your grant application and allow 30 days to complete the permit process. For more information contact your [Registered Aboriginal Party](#) or [Aboriginal Victoria](#).

Traditional Owners

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians view the natural world within an interconnected ecological, cultural and livelihood system. Traditional Owners have both a cultural obligation and a legal right to be custodians of their traditional land and waters and protect the unique natural and cultural values they contain.

See the Youtube video [Working in partnership to heal Country](#) from the Victoria Nature Festival.

To determine which Aboriginal Land your project is located , please use this map showing [Victoria's current Registered Aboriginal Parties](#)

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Grant applicants are responsible for identifying and obtaining any required permits for on-ground projects, including for projects that occur on sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, and must ensure the appropriate permits are in place prior to commencement of an on-ground project.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria, including Aboriginal Intangible Heritage (traditional practices and knowledge), Aboriginal sites, places and objects are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act Regulations 2018*. It is the responsibility of us, as the carers of the land, to respect, understand, and protect our Aboriginal Heritage.

To determine if your planned on-ground project is within an identified area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, you will need to look at the [online mapping tool](#), which can be found on the [Aboriginal Victoria website](#) under the [Heritage section](#). This website will also provide further information if your proposed project site is within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

If your on-ground project is not within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, this does not guarantee there are no Aboriginal sites in the area. If an unregistered Aboriginal site is found during the delivery of your on-ground project, you must stop immediately and contact Aboriginal Victoria on 1800 762 003.

Junior Landcare Learning Centre

Go to the [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](#) for First Nations Perspectives, including learning about Indigenous seasons; traditional land management techniques and cultural heritage.