

2024 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants



Information Sheet 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and 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.

Traditional Owners

Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians view the natural world within an interconnected ecological, cultural and livelihood system. They 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](#).

To determine which Aboriginal Country your project is located on, use the [Welcome Map](#) to find who the formally recognised Traditional Owners are for an area.

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 Aboriginal cultural heritage.

To determine if your planned on-ground project is within an identified area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, you need to look at the [online mapping tool](#), which can be found on the [Cultural heritage sensitivity | First Peoples - State Relations](#) website under the [Heritage section](#). This website will provide 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.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

The [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide](#) was developed to assist community groups (and schools) who are 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 the [First Peoples - State Relations](#) website.

Junior Landcare Learning Centre

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