



## Working with the Aboriginal community

G-5.1

All Aboriginal places are important, as each one is an integral part of the 'country.' 'Country' describes all of the areas that Aboriginal people traditionally used or occupied. Aboriginal people have strong physical and spiritual links with the 'country'. Currently Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania is protected under both Tasmanian and Commonwealth heritage legislation.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania can provide advice about protecting heritage places, including development setback requirements and all other aspects of Aboriginal heritage protection and management. Additional information can be obtained from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Before undertaking works in the coastal zone you need to consult with the Aboriginal community.

*Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 5 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure that consultation with the Aboriginal community occurs at the planning stage of proposed works and that work activities minimise the risk of causing damage to Aboriginal heritage values.*

### Consultation is essential

If you are planning any development or works outside an existing footprint you should contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, at the beginning of your planning.

Request a desktop TASI search for your proposed work site from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. This will determine if any values are present or if there is a likelihood of values.

An Aboriginal assessment is often required before a project can be undertaken. The assessment will determine if there is a permit required and will identify any constraints on the proposed activities that might be necessary to avoid damage to Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage values.

You may be required to have Aboriginal involvement in some projects, especially if they are close to or on Aboriginal heritage places.

You may be required to undertake specific rehabilitation techniques that have been developed for dealing with Aboriginal heritage places.

These recommendations will be part of your assessment and can be discussed with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania or the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC).

Involve Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the development of any interpretative and educational material associated with Tasmanian coastal areas. Their association with the coast is so significant that any material that fails to incorporate acknowledgement of Aboriginal custodianship and values is no longer acceptable.

Include a 'Welcome to Country' at events. Contact TALSC for more information.

Stop work immediately if you discover any Aboriginal artefacts. It's the law. Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania for advice. It is often a simple case of having the site recorded and minimising future disturbance.

### Aboriginal heritage assessments

Aboriginal heritage assessments are undertaken by an archaeologist and/or Aboriginal Heritage Officers under the guidance of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.

A Consultancy Brief will be provided from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania that defines survey requirements and reporting standards.

The brief for an Aboriginal heritage assessment needs to include details of the project and all associated infrastructure and techniques and methods that will be used to carry out the work.

Provide as much detail as possible to ensure the survey will include all aspects of the project.

### More information

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

[www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)

- List of registered archaeologists
- Standards and guidelines for consulting archaeologist and Aboriginal Heritage Officers
- Forms requesting access to TASI database for Aboriginal heritage site searches

Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

A list of Aboriginal Heritage Officers

*Tasmanian coastal works manual: Chapter 5, Page & Thorp 2010*

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