



## Cultural heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be developed for each project site.

A CHMP is a written report prepared by a registered Heritage Advisor. It includes results of an assessment of the potential impact of a proposed activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage, and outlines measures to be taken in order to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in the activity area.

The Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are the relevant authorities that will evaluate the plans, taking into consideration the objectives and requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

The RAPs for the project areas are Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation for Port Fairy, and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation for Portland and Heywood.

### Why is it required?

The CHMPs are required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, as the project is a high impact activity occurring in areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (areas where Aboriginal places are more likely to be located), as defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

### What does preparation of a CHMP involve?

There are three levels of assessment that may be a part of the cultural heritage assessment:

#### Desktop Assessment:

This includes background research information relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage in or associated with the activity area.

#### Standard Assessment:

A Standard Assessment involves a ground survey by archaeologists and the RAP to examine the surface of the activity area, and any mature trees, caves, rock shelters or cave entrances in the activity area.

#### Complex Assessment:

A Complex Assessment involves archaeological test excavation to uncover or discover Aboriginal cultural heritage below the ground surface.

### Timeline

Desktop and Standard Assessments have been undertaken for each CHMP. Complex Assessments will be undertaken in coming months. The CHMPs are currently scheduled for completion in early 2026.

