

The *PSP Notes* are a series of documents providing advice to key stakeholders and organisations responsible for preparing precinct structure plans. These are expected to be updated from time to time. This document represents current thinking about planning for heritage management in growth areas.

When creating a precinct structure plan, heritage management should be considered in the context of the surrounding and long term urban development. In particular, the design response should consider how heritage interpretation can enhance the image, appreciation and enjoyment of the local environment. Retained Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage should be included within open space networks or built form, wherever possible.

### Policy and legislative context

Melbourne 2030 recognises the importance of conserving places of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage and promotes initiatives for a consistent framework for assessment of heritage places and development proposals.

The state planning objective is 'to assist the conservation of places that have natural, environmental, aesthetic, historic, cultural, scientific or social significance or other special value important for scientific and research purposes, as a means of understanding our past, as well as maintaining and enhancing Victoria's image and making a contribution to the economic and cultural growth of the State' (Clause 15.11).

This policy is implemented through the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) that applies to heritage places and associated land. Places included on the Victorian Heritage Register are subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 1995. Historical archaeological sites and relics are also subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act. Both Heritage Victoria and the council can advise on the need for new heritage overlays. For further information contact Heritage Victoria.

The Heritage Overlay can apply to an Aboriginal heritage place, however it is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 was introduced to give priority to protecting and conserving Aboriginal heritage places, landscapes and objects wherever possible. The legislative requirements for Aboriginal cultural heritage can be addressed at the same time as preparing the precinct structure plan. Decisions made about where and how Aboriginal cultural heritage is to be protected and managed should be made alongside other design decisions in the precinct structure plan. For further information contact Aboriginal Affairs Victoria or Registered Aboriginal Parties.

Cultural heritage is protected by the Commonwealth through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 and administered by the Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). DEWHA will need to be involved in the process where matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) are likely to be affected by the precinct structure plan's proposals.

## Cultural Heritage Management Plans

The Aboriginal Heritage Act introduced the requirement for Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs). These plans provide a template for managing both known Aboriginal cultural heritage values and those that may be discovered during works.

Cultural Heritage Management Plans are required if:

- A listed high impact activity is proposed. Precinct structure plans will provide for a range of high impact activities such as greenfield residential sub-division, industrial estates, major recreational or sporting facilities; and
- The activity is in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity which has not been subject to significant ground disturbance. Areas of cultural heritage sensitivity are defined by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 and have been indicatively mapped by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV).

## Approach to integrating heritage requirements

A standard approach to integrating heritage requirements into the precinct structure planning process is set out in figure 1.

**Figure 1: Approach to integrating Aboriginal and post-contact heritage requirements**





