

Indigenous Heritage Action Plan (IHAP) - Work Priorities 2014–15

Council

Presenter: Ian Hicks, Manager Community Strengthening

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Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to present Council with the actions from the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan (IHAP) that require funding in 2014–15.
2. At the 17 December 2013 Council meeting, Council unanimously resolve to (in part) request management to:
 - 3.1 further develop and cost proposals for other means by which the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner (T&M) story can be presented to the Melbourne community consistent with the consultant's report (e.g. a walking trail, a collaboration with a theatre group)
 - 3.4 provide a separate report to the Future Melbourne Committee in April 2014 which describes and costs actions in the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan proposed to be implemented in the 2014–15 Financial Year.

Key issues

3. The IHAP 2012–15 (refer Attachment 2) outlines actions that recognise and promote Indigenous heritage. For the 2014–15 financial year most actions require only staff time, with the exception of actions 1.6, 2.2, 4.4 and 5.1.
4. Action 1.6 will involve the development of a GIS based Indigenous heritage map (database) that visually and more easily identifies Aboriginal heritage places. This can be achieved through existing staff resources.
5. Action 2.2 builds on the work of Action 1.6 to utilise the GIS mapping tool to develop self-guided tours and a walking trail. There may be potential once action 1.6 is developed, for the data to be made available for development of a mapping tool by a social enterprise or a commercial business offering heritage walks and tours. This would most likely be in the form of a smart phone application. The estimated establishment cost of approximately \$40,000 would be borne by an enterprise with the capacity to apply for grant funding through an existing Council grants programs.
6. Action 4.4 relates to refining the existing Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (Formerly Aboriginal Affairs Victoria) sensitivity mapping to ensure that archaeological sites are discovered through the existing Cultural Heritage Management Plan process. As this will require expertise of an archaeologist, funding of \$10,000 will be required. This can be found within the Community Development division's 2014–15 proposed draft budget.
7. Action 5.1 involves establishing a working group. This has already occurred and its first priority has been the T&M project. The T&M project is a key priority that will continue into 2014–15. The cost of the project will depend on the nature of the marker chosen. The maximum budget required will be \$155,000. The lowest cost will be \$85,000. This has been allowed for in the draft 2014–15 budget.
8. The development of living events to represent the story of T&M, consistent with the consultant's report was not contemplated at the time that the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan was adopted. The proposal to develop a walking trail (referred to in clause 5 above) will include the T&M story as part of recognising Melbourne's broader Aboriginal heritage and history.
9. Additional living events in regard to the T&M story have been canvassed with the National Trust, which include potential poetry readings and theatre events. It is proposed that the Council Indigenous Grants program be modified in 2014–15 to explicitly seek submissions from individuals or organisations interested in producing and presenting 'living events' to recognise the story of T&M. The funding to be dedicated from Indigenous grants toward encouraging the production of these living events would be \$10,000 and this is provided for in the draft 2014–15 budget.

Recommendation from management

10. That Council:

10.1. notes the actions in the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan for Year 2

10.2. endorses the total costs of up to \$175,000 associated with the actions which can be met within the proposed 2014–15 draft budget.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Indigenous Heritage Action Plan 2012–15

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no legal issues arising from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. The anticipated financial implications of actions 1.6, 2.2, 4.4 and 5.1 are able to be met within the proposed 2014–15 draft budget.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

4. A consultation process was undertaken as this was carried out as part of the Indigenous Heritage Study – Stage 1 research and drafting of the IHAP.
5. In relation to the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner Project considerable consultation has occurred with stakeholders including members of the Working Group, RMIT senior executives Tasmanian elders, historians and an arts installation adviser.

Relation to Council policy

6. This recommendation is consistent with the:
 - 6.1 Indigenous Heritage Action Plan (2012–15)
 - 6.2 Reconciliation Action Plan 2011–14
 - 6.3 Council Plan 2013–17

Environmental sustainability

7. The recognition of Aboriginal history is a significant contribution strengthening the community's understanding, awareness and appreciation of the traditional role and ongoing connection that Aboriginal people retain to our urban environment regardless of its changing form.

CITY OF MELBOURNE

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE STUDY ACTION PLAN

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Kulin Nation. For the Wurundjeri, Boonerwung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurung groups who form the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance. Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Indigenous Victorians.

Executive Summary

This Action Plan is designed to implement the findings of Stage 1 of the *City of Melbourne Indigenous Heritage Study* and guide future stages of that study. It also reflects the scope and aspirations of the *City of Melbourne Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-14* and the *City of Melbourne Aboriginal Framework for 2007-10*.

THE NEED FOR AN ACTION PLAN

In 2009 work commenced on the City of Melbourne's Indigenous Heritage Study ('Study'), a key deliverable under the Council endorsed Indigenous Framework 2007-11.

The Study was designed to document the places, objects and stories of importance to Victoria's Aboriginal communities within or connected to the City of Melbourne (CoM). The objective was to provide a base of information about sites, stories and events that are culturally important to Aboriginal people that would inform the development of a cultural heritage management system and database.

The Study was proposed in two stages:

- Stage One, was a 'desk top' study completed by Context Pty Ltd in December 2010. It documents a thematic history and cultural heritage survey of the municipality, with five (5) recommendations for the creation of a framework for a more detailed gathering of information in Stage Two; and
- Stage Two, is the proposed development of a cultural heritage management system/database, community-based mapping of cultural values across the landscape of the city, research and writing of a thematic history, detailed assessment and documentation of important places and material objects.

Following the completion of the Stage One study a number of sites of Aboriginal significance were identified within the City of Melbourne.

In August 2011, Council endorsed the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-14 (RAP) which includes an action to complete the cultural heritage management database (database) by 2013.

After consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Panel and through the drafting of Council's Heritage Plan 2012 – 14, the need emerged for a plan that would first document Council's response to a number of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites that had been identified. This Indigenous Heritage Action Plan ("Action Plan") is the City's response to that need.

This Action Plan is designed to implement some of the findings of Stage One of the *Study* and ensure that a number of important sites and events of Aboriginal history and heritage within the City are properly protected, managed, maintained and interpreted. The action plan will continue to be updated with more events and sites considered over time.

Management actions

The ultimate aim of the Study is to increase awareness of Aboriginal heritage and facilitate its improved protection and management, especially where the City is the organisation responsible for this. Management actions need to be agreed for the places and intangible associations that are identified by the Study, and for those which are identified in the future following its completion.

Council awareness

The nature and purpose of the *Indigenous Heritage Study* needs to be brought to the attention of the whole of the City of Melbourne as an organisation. The goals of improved understanding and management can only be achieved through active engagement of a number of Council's branches, and it is necessary to build internal support to secure commitment to the continuation of the Study. The

recently signed *Reconciliation Action Plan* is expected to give impetus to this process, with a number of staff having been actively involved in its development.

Aboriginal community involvement

It is vital that the Aboriginal community take ownership of the Study, and their meaningful involvement in decisions on the management of Aboriginal heritage in the city is central to its success.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

With regard to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the city, the key issues identified by the *Indigenous Heritage Study* to date have been themed under five priority areas, as follows:

The capacity of the City of Melbourne

- The City of Melbourne as an organisation is well placed to strengthen cultural awareness and knowledge, build additional skills and systems both within its own organisation and also within the community.
- Partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, management bodies, adjoining municipalities, State government, community groups, tourism and business will be important to deliver the range of Aboriginal heritage services needed in a complex and changing capital city environment.

Identifying and understanding Aboriginal Heritage

- A relatively small number of places with known or potential Aboriginal heritage values are currently recognised and fewer are actively managed and protected.
- The available information concerning many of the places in the City of Melbourne which are currently recognised is inaccurate. For those places which are recorded on heritage registers, this can be attributed to a lack of regular updates to relevant citations. For those which are recognised through other means, these records are often also out of date.
- The identification and protection of Aboriginal places needs to be integrated with existing City of Melbourne heritage protection systems as many places of importance to Aboriginal people will also be places of importance to the wider community, although possibly for different reasons. Identifying these places requires consultation with the Aboriginal community.
- For Aboriginal people, the whole landscape and its key elements (e.g. the Yarra River) may be important as their traditional country, as the landscape in which their forebears lived (where ceremonies were held, food was gathered, generations were reared etc), as a landscape that is the evidence of creation stories and for plants and animals that have totemic relationships for Aboriginal people.

Protecting Aboriginal heritage

- For Aboriginal people the tangible evidence of their history that is contained in 'places' is highly valued, and agreement to disturb or destroy such evidence through development processes or neglect may cause strong feelings of grief.
- There are varying requirements for the identification, documentation and assessment of the significance of Aboriginal heritage places as a result of the legislative framework and the requirements of the two key agencies: Heritage Victoria and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, and these have implications with regards to their protection. Further, protection of Aboriginal heritage places under the Planning Scheme is also not well handled under the current Victorian planning provisions.
- The protection of more intangible associations which are not encapsulated by a specific place, is problematic, especially when these cannot, or have not, been defined.

Managing and maintaining Aboriginal heritage

- The condition of many of the registered places in the city could be improved, and procedures are required to ensure that their condition is monitored and that maintenance is undertaken.

Interpreting Aboriginal heritage and increasing awareness

- Many of the known places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the city are not interpreted so as to convey their heritage values, and this probably contributes to a lack of public awareness concerning Aboriginal heritage across the city.

- Whilst for reasons of cultural sensitivity information on some places and associations will need to be restricted, improved interpretation and presentation of Aboriginal heritage will increase public awareness and this should have positive implications for its management.

THE ROLE OF THIS DOCUMENT

How to use it

This plan sets out how Council will work towards the improved recognition and management of Aboriginal heritage in the city, highlighting when actions will be undertaken and listing the resources needed to achieve them.

Where it fits

In relation to Aboriginal heritage, these actions should be seen as supplementary to those included in the 'Action Programme' for the draft Melbourne Heritage Strategy 2012-16 which aspires to a more holistic approach to heritage, including Aboriginal heritage values alongside those for non-Indigenous heritage.

What it covers

Some of the highest priority recommendations relate specifically to the thirteen places in the city which are currently covered by legislative protection – i.e. they are included on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) or subject to a City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay (HO) specifically for their Aboriginal heritage significance. The City of Melbourne has a legal obligation to protect and maintain these places.

Other actions relate to categories of heritage places which have been identified through the *Indigenous Heritage Study Stage 1*, and the remainder represent more general measures which will serve to improve the recognition and management of Aboriginal heritage in the City.

Definitions

The following terms and meanings are used in the Action Plan:

Tangible heritage refers to physical fabric which embodies heritage values and can include buildings, archaeological sites and objects.

Intangible heritage refers to aspects of heritage that are embodied in traditions, knowledge, cultural and social practices, language, performance etc., rather than in the physical fabric of places and objects.

In heritage terms, a place is considered in poor condition if its physical state has deteriorated, or is deteriorating, to the point where the place's heritage value is at risk.

How the action plan can be carried out

The potential for the actions to be incorporated into existing City of Melbourne operations has been gauged through a workshop with staff from various Council branches and subsequent discussion within the respective teams.

The majority of the actions can be achieved through reviews and amendments to the City of Melbourne's existing internal processes, and through increased cooperation with the City of Melbourne's partner organisations and other bodies which share responsibility for the management of Aboriginal heritage in the City, or for whom it is a concern.

Some of the actions, such as the creation of a GIS database, will require the development of additional systems.

1. Building our capacity

Goal: The City of Melbourne has the knowledge, skills, systems and resources needed to fulfil its responsibilities and aspirations for Aboriginal heritage across the municipality.

The City of Melbourne is a leader in the recognition of Aboriginal heritage.

The City of Melbourne is a leader in supporting Traditional Owners in their management of Aboriginal heritage in Melbourne.

Building the internal capacities of the City of Melbourne as an organisation will enable it to work more effectively with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal organisations and other Aboriginal stakeholders to deliver a range of services for Aboriginal heritage and to build partnerships.

Action	Time & Resources	Comments
1.1 Build knowledge about the Aboriginal history and the diversity of Aboriginal heritage to occur within the city through ongoing staff training and awareness activities.	Year: 1 Resources: staff time	Feedback from Council officers suggests that a combination of awareness induction at corporate level and a walking heritage tour, presents a good introduction, but that this could be complemented by branch level presentations to enable staff to appreciate how it applies to the work of their branch as well as the organisation as a whole.
1.2 Improve liaison with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV)	Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) is the branch of the Department of Planning and Community Development that provides advice to the Victorian Government on Aboriginal policy, including that relating to Aboriginal heritage. It delivers programs to benefit the Indigenous people of the State. Closer liaison with AAV will ensure that City of Melbourne initiatives are in sync with State and nationwide programmes and approaches.
1.3 Improve awareness of and engagement with the City of Melbourne Indigenous Advisory Panel (IAP).	Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time	Establishing the IAP was an important initiative. The IAP can help bring Aboriginal perspectives into the work, policies and programs of the whole organisation. To do this, Council officers need a better understanding of the IAP, its role and how to engage with the IAP.
1.4 Introduce protocols so that Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders are engaged during the early stages of the management process. Set up a 'check list' naming people/groups that need to be consulted and at what stages.	Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time	It is proposed to integrate points of consultation into existing community engagement structures to ensure that engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders is appropriately considered.

<p>1.5 Ensure that contractors are aware of places of Aboriginal significance. Establish specific requirements in tender documentation and associated contracts.</p>	<p>Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time</p>	<p>The action should apply to all contractors whose activities may impact on known Aboriginal heritage places, and areas with the potential to contain Aboriginal heritage places. It may also be applied to contractors whose activities may affect other aspects of Aboriginal culture.</p>
<p>1.6 Develop a GIS-linked, online and interactive database as a repository for information about Aboriginal history and heritage, and as a management tool for heritage places.</p>	<p>Year: 2 Resources: Funding for development of database system through an external provider. Staff time in guiding the development of the system</p>	<p>This action arises from the <i>Stage 1 Indigenous Heritage Study</i>, and is also a recommended action (2.6) in the <i>Reconciliation Action Plan</i>. The concept is for a GIS-linked database that provides a single repository for oral history, digital images, place data, history and stories. It will become a powerful resource for the City of Melbourne in fulfilling its responsibilities and aspirations as well as for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal organisations that contribute to its development. It has the potential to enhance Aboriginal engagement with the city.</p>
<p>1.7 Hold workshops to increase the familiarity of planning officers and consultants with the utility of the 'Aboriginal Heritage Place' classification in the existing Heritage Overlay.</p>	<p>Year: 1 Resources: staff time</p>	<p>Recent discussion suggests that the manner in which this facility is currently recommended and employed varies between individual council officers and consultants.</p>

2. Identifying and understanding Aboriginal Heritage

Goal: Places and associations of Aboriginal heritage significance are recognised and acknowledged by the City of Melbourne.

Working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal organisations will increase the number of places in the city that are recognised for their Aboriginal heritage values. Adapting and improving existing mechanisms will ensure that additional places can be brought to the attention of the City of Melbourne and appropriately acknowledged in turn.

Action	Time & Resources	Comments
<p>2.1 Review the citations for the thirteen places (see appendix) in the city which are currently recorded on statutory registers because of their Aboriginal heritage significance, to ensure that their values are adequately understood and can be managed accordingly.</p>	<p>Year: 1 Resources: staff time or consultant costs</p>	<p>The available information concerning many of the Aboriginal heritage places in the City of Melbourne which are currently recognised is inaccurate. For those places which are recorded on heritage registers this can be attributed to a lack of regular updates to relevant citations.</p>

2.2 Promote the study of Aboriginal heritage within the context of the wider historic landscape and of the change in that landscape since European colonisation.	Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time	For Aboriginal people, the whole landscape and its key elements (e.g. Yarra River) may be important as their traditional country, as the landscape in which their forebears lived (where ceremonies were held, food was gathered, generations were reared etc), as a landscape that is evidence of creation stories, for plants and animals that have totemic relationships.
2.3 Continually review the <i>City of Melbourne Indigenous Heritage Study</i> to ensure it is updated and accurately records the places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the city.	Year: 2 Resources: consultant costs	A relatively small number of places with known or potential Aboriginal heritage values are currently recorded in the city.
2.4 Review the citations for non-indigenous heritage places which are currently recognised on statutory registers (Heritage Overlay, Victorian Heritage Register and Victorian Heritage Inventory) to ensure that any Aboriginal heritage values are accurately reflected and considered in managing these places.	Year: 3 Resources: staff time or consultant costs	The Indigenous Heritage Study has identified a number of places currently protected through inclusion on heritage registers which have Aboriginal heritage values which are not reflected in their listing. An example would be North Melbourne Town Hall (Victorian Heritage Register 2224, HO987) which was the scene of an Aboriginal solidarity rally in 1997.
2.5 Establish and promote mechanisms through which places of Aboriginal heritage significance can continue to be recorded following completion of the heritage study.	Year: 3 Resources: staff time	A City of Melbourne internal system is required to collect information on places of Aboriginal heritage significance.

3. Protecting Aboriginal heritage

Goal: Places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the City of Melbourne are afforded effective protection from loss of heritage values resulting from destruction, physical deterioration or other means.

The protection of Aboriginal heritage values, relating to both tangible places and intangible associations, can be improved through greater understanding and awareness of that heritage, and the consequent improvement in management. More directly it can be improved through the inclusion of places on the appropriate statutory heritage registers – the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) and the Heritage Overlay (HO) of the City of Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Action	Time & Resources	Comments
3.1 Review each of the existing statutory place listings in the city to ensure that each is subject to the most appropriate form of protection beginning with :	Year: 1 Resources: staff time	The existing statutory protections can confer different, sometimes inappropriate, protections on listed places. Council will support a Heritage Victoria nomination of Kings

Kings Domain Garden, with particular regard to its significance as a place of importance to Aboriginal cultural heritage.		Domain Garden on the Victorian Heritage Register, including its significance to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
3.2 Liaise with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) to ensure that the Heritage Overlay and VAHR together more accurately reflect the Aboriginal heritage of the city and offer effective protection.	Year: 1 Resources: staff time	The use of certain heritage registers, such as the VAHR, could be restricted to places for which this listing is more appropriate (e.g. archaeological sites) if the other places could be afforded protection by other means.
3.3 Investigate the possibility of incorporating additional policy on Aboriginal heritage into the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF).	Year: 1 Resources: staff time	This could include policy on how to protect and manage both tangible and intangible heritage values.
3.4 Hold discussion between Traditional Owners and City of Melbourne staff, possibly with advice from AAV, on the best ways to define and protect 'intangible' heritage/sites.	Year: 1 and ongoing Resources: staff time	As with all heritages, the development of measures to protect intangible heritage must begin with a firm understanding of what it is, and of its significance.
3.5 Review the appropriate Heritage Overlays of the CoM planning scheme upon completion of the <i>Indigenous Heritage Study</i> (see 2.3) to ensure identified and significant Aboriginal sites are appropriately protected.	Year: 3 Resources: staff time or consultant costs	Discussion with Council planning officers suggests that the Heritage Overlay would be the best mechanism for statutorily protecting places of Aboriginal heritage significance.
3.6 Nominate the Scarred Tree located at Melbourne Zoo as an 'exceptional tree' on the City of Melbourne's Exceptional Tree Register.	Year: 1	Currently all trees located within Melbourne Zoo are being nominated collectively as 'exceptional trees' under the City of Melbourne's Exceptional Tree Register. The City of Melbourne will make a single nomination of the Scarred Tree to register as an 'exceptional tree' for its cultural and historical value.

4. Managing and maintaining Aboriginal heritage

Goal: The City of Melbourne ensures that all of the known, and as yet unknown, places of Aboriginal heritage significance within the municipality are appropriately managed and maintained.

The current management and maintenance systems for statutorily protected places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the city are in need of review, and this will become more pressing as more places are identified and protected. This review should be founded on improved information systems and consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders. Cooperation between the City of Melbourne and other management bodies will be necessary to ensure consistent approaches across the city.

Action	Time & Resources	Comments
<p>4.1 Review the current maintenance regime for the following places:</p> <p>Scarred tree in Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne (VAHR 7822-0002, HO10)</p> <p>Scarred tree ‘Princes Park 1’ (VAHR 7822-0979)</p> <p>Undertake maintenance as required, having discussed the most appropriate way in which to present the place, in line with the actions under Theme 5; <i>Interpreting Aboriginal heritage and increasing awareness.</i></p>	<p>Year: 1</p> <p>Resources: staff time</p>	<p>Many of the places in the city which are on statutory lists because of their Aboriginal heritage significance, and for which the City of Melbourne is responsible, are in poor condition.</p> <p>In some cases, maintenance may require specialist input and consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders.</p>
<p>4.2 Review the management protocols for all Aboriginal heritage places for which the City of Melbourne has legal responsibility to ensure that the management is appropriate and the places are effectively maintained.</p>	<p>Year: 1</p> <p>Resources: staff time</p>	<p>Ensure that these are compliant with the requirements of the 2006 Aboriginal Heritage Act and the Victorian Planning Provisions.</p>
<p>4.3 Ensure that statutorily protected places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the city over which the City of Melbourne does not have direct control are appropriately managed and effectively maintained through increasing cooperation with the management bodies, beginning with the following:</p> <p>Melbourne Zoo (Scarred tree VAHR 7822-0003)</p> <p>Scarred trees in Yarra Park (VAHR 7822-0648/0649/0996, HO 12/13)</p> <p>Melbourne General Cemetery (Derrimut’s Grave site VAHR 7822-1601)</p> <p>Royal Botanic Gardens (Yarra Mission site VAHR 7822-1563)</p>	<p>Year: 1</p> <p>Resources: staff time</p>	<p>Ensure that these management bodies are aware of their obligations and those of the City of Melbourne.</p>
<p>4.4 Work to refine the existing AAV sensitivity mapping for the City of Melbourne to ensure that archaeological sites are given every chance of discovery through the existing Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) process which was established through the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.</p>	<p>Year: 2 and ongoing</p> <p>Resources: staff time and/or consultant costs</p>	<p>The existing AAV sensitivity mapping for the city is broad-brush, and inaccuracies have been identified by Stage 1 of the <i>Indigenous Heritage Study</i>. Accurate mapping is vital because a determination on the need for a development to be informed by a CHMP is dependant on whether an area is mapped as sensitive.</p>

<p>4.5 Integrate information on places of known Aboriginal significance identified through the <i>Indigenous Heritage Study</i> (see 2.3) into the existing Council GIS system so that all Council officers have access to this information.</p> <p>This could then be linked to the proposed GIS-linked Indigenous heritage database (1.8).</p>	<p>Year: 2 or 3 Resources: staff time</p>	<p>The identification and protection of Aboriginal places needs to be integrated with existing City of Melbourne heritage protection systems, and it is important that all Council officers and operatives have access to this information, or can provide it to authorised contractors.</p> <p>Restrictions may need to apply to any culturally sensitive information.</p>
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5. Interpreting Aboriginal heritage and increasing awareness

Goals: The heritage values of places of Aboriginal heritage significance are effectively and appropriately disseminated to the wider public, as are those relating to less tangible associations which do not relate to a particular place, or which relate to more than one place.

There is a greater appreciation of the importance of Aboriginal heritage places amongst the wider community.

Presenting Aboriginal heritage places to the wider public is necessary to improve awareness and to acknowledge the history of Aboriginal people in the city. However, cultural sensitivities surrounding some places and associations must determine the manner in which this occurs. Some important associations may relate to a number of places, or to no place in particular, in which case the method and location of any interpretation should also be carefully considered. Consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal organisations should be the driver behind any strategy.

It may be more appropriate to refrain from interpretation of some places. Examples would be the artefact scatter recorded at Flemington Racecourse and an artefact recorded as having been found during development works on Little Bourke Street (VAHR 7822-1775 & 7822-2296). Neither of these places has an extant component, the recorded material having been removed from the sites (although they may represent wider archaeological deposits which remain to be found). In these cases, more general accounts of Aboriginal activity in the area may be more appropriate.

Action	Time & Resources	Comments
<p>5.1 A number of important and significant sites have been identified in the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>A working group should be established that includes representatives of the Traditional Owners, Aboriginal organisations, descendants (as appropriate) and other stakeholders to review the way known places of Aboriginal heritage significance are currently portrayed.</p> <p>Priorities for discussion by the working group should include investigating the potential memorialisation of:</p> <p>Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner</p>	<p>Year: 1 Resources: staff time</p>	<p>Many of the known places of Aboriginal heritage significance in the city are not interpreted so as to convey their heritage values. For some of these places, measures could be taken to convey their values, but for others cultural sensitivities or management circumstances may mean that this is not appropriate.</p> <p>Priority places for commentary and interpretation, as resources allow, should be identified, and a series of criteria agreed to ensure that key aspects of Aboriginal history in the City are covered. Criteria could include the amount known about a place, the degree to which it is grounded in the history of the city or the amount of popular support for a</p>

		particular action.
5.2 In discussion with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal organisations, prepare a strategy to direct the interpretation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance that are identified by the <i>Indigenous Heritage Study</i> (see 2.3) and in the future.	Year: 1 Resources: staff time and/or consultant costs	Although, as described above, the need for and nature of interpretation will vary with each instance, the strategy should provide general approaches for providing interpretation for a range of Aboriginal heritage places and associations.
5.3 Review Council protocols for place naming to ensure that naming protocols give appropriate consideration to Aboriginal heritage, places and people.	Year: 2 Resources: staff time	For this to be successful, authenticity is of the utmost importance and Traditional Owners should be involved throughout this process to ensure appropriateness of meaning, location, intent, language, identity of place.
5.4 Review the need for interpretation at the following statutorily protected places: Artefact scatter at Flemington Racecourse, Flemington (VAHR 7822-1775) Artefact 'Little Bourke Street 1' (VAHR 7822-2296)	Year: 2 Resources: staff time	These places are currently not interpreted, and the need for interpretation should be the subject of discussion.
5.5 Work with partner organisations to determine the need for interpretation of the following places, and what form this might take: Scarred tree VAHR 7822-0003 (Melbourne Zoo) Derrimut's Grave site VAHR 7822-1601 (Melbourne General Cemetery) Yarra Mission site VAHR 7822-1563 (Royal Botanic Gardens)	Year: 2 Resources: staff time and/or consultant costs	Whilst the development of interpretation for these places could be as a result of a City of Melbourne initiative, the management body for the places would need to be responsible for its implementation.
5.6 Initiate a program to integrate local Aboriginal languages into place signage at appropriate locations and interpretation.	Year: 2 or 3 Resources: staff time	For this to be successful, authenticity is of the utmost importance and Traditional Owners should be involved throughout this process to ensure appropriateness of meaning, location, intent, language, identity of place.

APPENDIX

PLACES OF ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ON STATUTORY LISTS IN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

Description	Location	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR)	Victorian Heritage Register	Heritage Overlay (HO)
Artefact scatter	Flemington Racecourse, Flemington	VAHR 7822-1775		
Scarred tree	Melbourne Zoo Parkville	VAHR - 7822-0003		HO 364
Derrimut's Grave site	Carlton	VAHR 7822-1601)		HO 799 applies to the whole of the cemetery
Meeting Tree	Carlton Gardens, Carlton	VAHR 7822-2035	Carlton Gardens is registered on the Heritage Register	HO 69 applies to the whole of Carlton Gardens
Yarra Mission site	Royal Botanic Gardens	VAHR 7822-1563	Heritage Register	HO402
Scarred tree	Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne	VAHR 7822-0002		HO10
Scarred trees	Yarra Park	VAHR 7822-0648	Heritage Register	HO12
		VAHR 7822-0649	Heritage Register	HO13
		VAHR 7822-0996	Heritage Register	
Artefact	'Little Bourke Street 1	VAHR 7822-2296		
Scarred tree	'Princes Park 1'	VAHR 7822-0979		HO1