



PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE



ABORIGINAL SITES AND OBJECTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.

Aboriginal people have lived in south west Queensland for thousands of years. During that time, they left physical evidence of their activities, which survives as cultural heritage.

WHAT IS ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE?

Aboriginal cultural heritage includes physical objects and places, such as rock art and stone artefacts, as well as intangible attributes such as songs, protocols and language. Cultural heritage commonly found in the Surat basin area includes stone artefacts, middens, and scarred trees.

There have also been ceremonial sites, camping sites, and rock sites identified in this area, usually close to water sources such as lakes and rivers or in proximity to prominent landscape features and within rock shelters and caves.

**In all our operations,
we work with
stakeholders to
identify and protect
Aboriginal cultural
heritage.**

EXAMPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Scarred trees are trees that bear the marks of bark and wood removal, which were used by Aboriginal people to make canoes, shields, boomerangs or containers.

Middens are accumulations of shell that provide information about where Aboriginal people camped, what food was eaten, and how long they stayed at a site.

Stone scatters are often found near campsites or open habitation sites. Stones were used for various purposes including axes, cutting edges, and grinding tools.

Ceremonial sites are places where Aboriginal people gathered for ceremony, ritual and initiations. They are often marked by patterns of stone laid out to form circles and other designs. Bora grounds are a common type of ceremonial site, and are generally associated with initiation ceremonies.



HOW DO WE PROTECT ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE?

Under state legislation, all Queenslanders share a duty of care to protect cultural heritage from harm.

Shell meets its responsibilities in the following ways:

- ✓ In the planning stage no-go zones and buffer zones for known cultural heritage sites and landforms are identified
- ✓ If ground disturbance is planned—for example through digging or raking—a site survey is carried out. This is generally undertaken by Aboriginal people with historical links to an area and a technical adviser such as an archaeologist or anthropologist.
- ✓ The location of cultural heritage sites and landforms is recorded.
- ✓ If required, further investigation (such as test pitting) to determine the nature and extent of sub-surface cultural heritage is undertaken.
- ✓ Cultural heritage is protected while undertaking project activities – for example, through the use of avoidance zones and by engaging Aboriginal people to undertake monitoring.

WHAT IF ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE IS FOUND ON MY PROPERTY?

When Aboriginal places and objects are identified on private property within the project's footprint, we work with Traditional Owners to record and protect these places and objects.

The identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage on a property will not affect ownership, or stop existing land use from continuing. The State Government's cultural heritage unit can provide information on the duty of care obligations of landholders and land users in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact your Land Access Advisor or a member of the community engagement team for more information.

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