

B4. Cultural Heritage Preservation

The Aboriginal Heritage Act (WA) 1972 makes provision for the preservation of places and objects customarily used by the original inhabitants of Australia and their descendants. Natural area managers have the opportunity to identify Aboriginal culture as an asset by protecting and incorporating cultural heritage values within their region.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template* (McCann, 2008) is a guide developed for local governments that provides direction for the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The guide offers step-by-step guidelines for stakeholders when “developing projects and management plans that aim to engage Aboriginal people and incorporate their traditional knowledge as part of the planning, implementation and operational processes” (McCann, 2008).

Steps include:

- Planning your approach
- Identification of Aboriginal heritage places (and the government organisations that will assist you)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- Management targets
- Action planning

There is also provision for Indigenous consultation in NRM protocols, grant opportunities, and further resources included within this resource guide. All local governments should have received a copy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan in 2008. If you require further information contact Cheryl-Anne McCann, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Planning Coordinator at the Perth Region NRM (formerly known as the Swan Catchment Council).

Aboriginal sites mapping can be found on the Department of Indigenous Affairs website <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/>