

# Aboriginal Heritage Assessment – Current and Future Directions

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# Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

- Administers the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*
- Provides management and protection for Aboriginal sites in Tasmania
- Maintains the Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) – 13,000+ sites. Enables advice to all stakeholders - landowners, developers, local councils, government departments
- Consults with the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Heritage Council (AHC)
- Undertakes site verification work – to resolve AHR legacy data

# Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Aims to:

- Provide stakeholders with the tools to develop a consistent approach in managing Aboriginal heritage
- Facilitate greater awareness and protection of Aboriginal heritage in operations such as planning and development assessment
- Support strategic resource partnerships with all stakeholders in developing a common approach

# AHT Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About Us', 'Aboriginal Cultural Heritage', 'Assessment Process', 'Legislation', 'World Heritage Area', and 'Forms & Documents'. The main header features the Tasmanian Government logo and the text 'Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania' over a background image of ancient rock art. Below the header is a search bar and a 'Contact us' link. The main content area is organized into a grid of tiles, each with an image and a title followed by a right-pointing arrow. The tiles include: 'About Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania' (with an image of ancient rock art), 'Aboriginal Cultural Heritage' (with an image of a woven basket), 'Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process' (with an image of hands holding a shell), 'Legislation' (with an image of a coastal landscape), 'Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area' (with an image of a mountain range), 'Forms, Documents & Resources' (with an image of traditional Aboriginal shields), and 'Aboriginal Heritage Property Search' (with an image of a shell midden). To the right of the grid is a sidebar titled 'Items of Interest' which lists three recent news items: 'Media Release: Aboriginal Relics Investigation' (13/9/2017), 'Aboriginal Heritage Property Search' (31/8/2017), and 'Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975' (31/8/2017). The footer of the page features the Tasmanian Government logo.

**Navigation:** About Us, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, Assessment Process, Legislation, World Heritage Area, Forms & Documents

**Header:** Tasmanian Government, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, www.tas.gov.au

**Search:** Search, Contact us

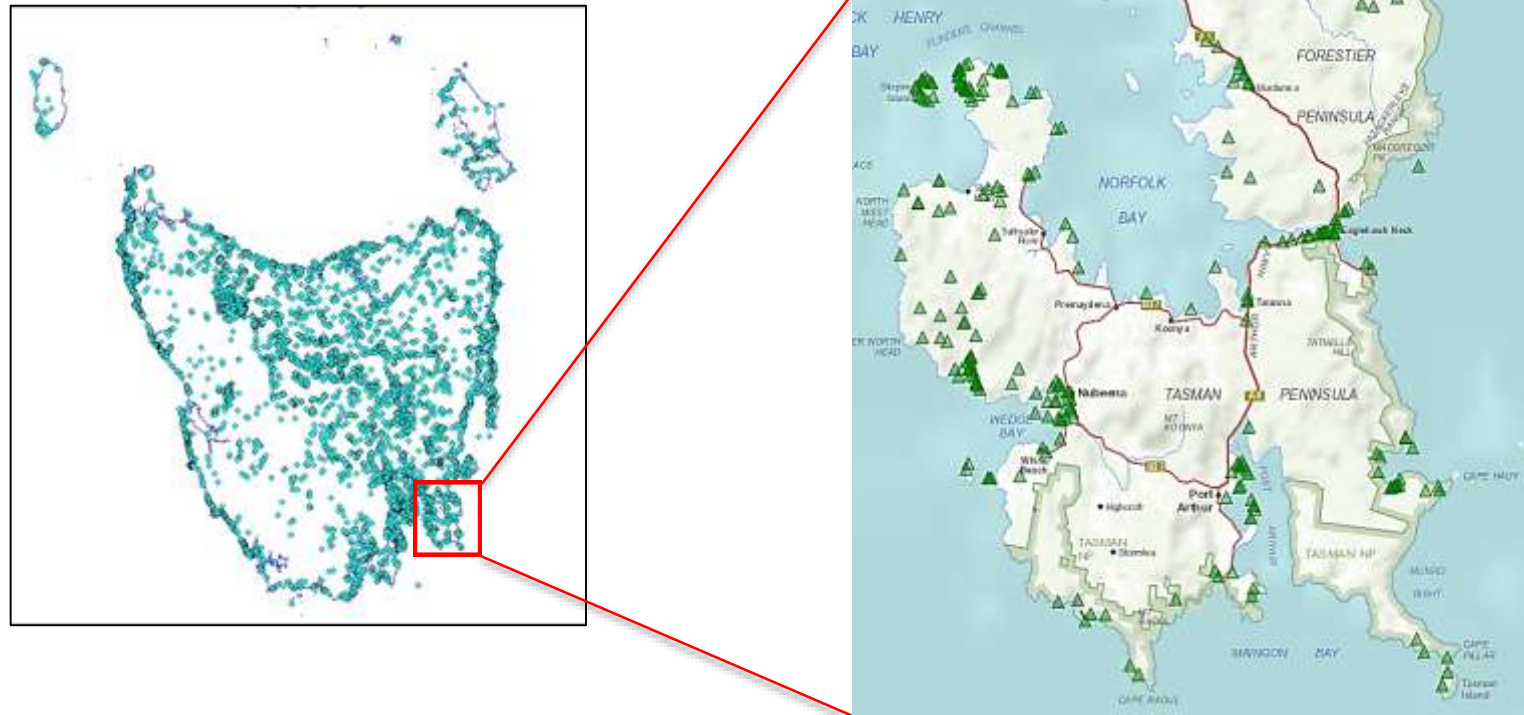
**Main Content Tiles:**

- About Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process
- Legislation
- Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
- Forms, Documents & Resources
- Aboriginal Heritage Property Search

**Items of Interest:**

- Media Release: Aboriginal Relics Investigation**  
13/9/2017  
Alleged Tasmanian Aboriginal artefacts seized in interstate raid
- Aboriginal Heritage Property Search**  
31/8/2017  
The Aboriginal Heritage Property Search offers information on whether registered Aboriginal relics in an area are at risk of being impacted.
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975**  
31/8/2017  
The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 commenced on 16 August 2017

# Registered Aboriginal Heritage Sites



# Aboriginal Heritage Register Site Types

- Cultural landscapes (not in AHR)
- Artefacts
- Quarries
- Rock shelters
- Rock markings
- Modified trees
- Middens
- Hut depressions
- Stone arrangements
- Burials

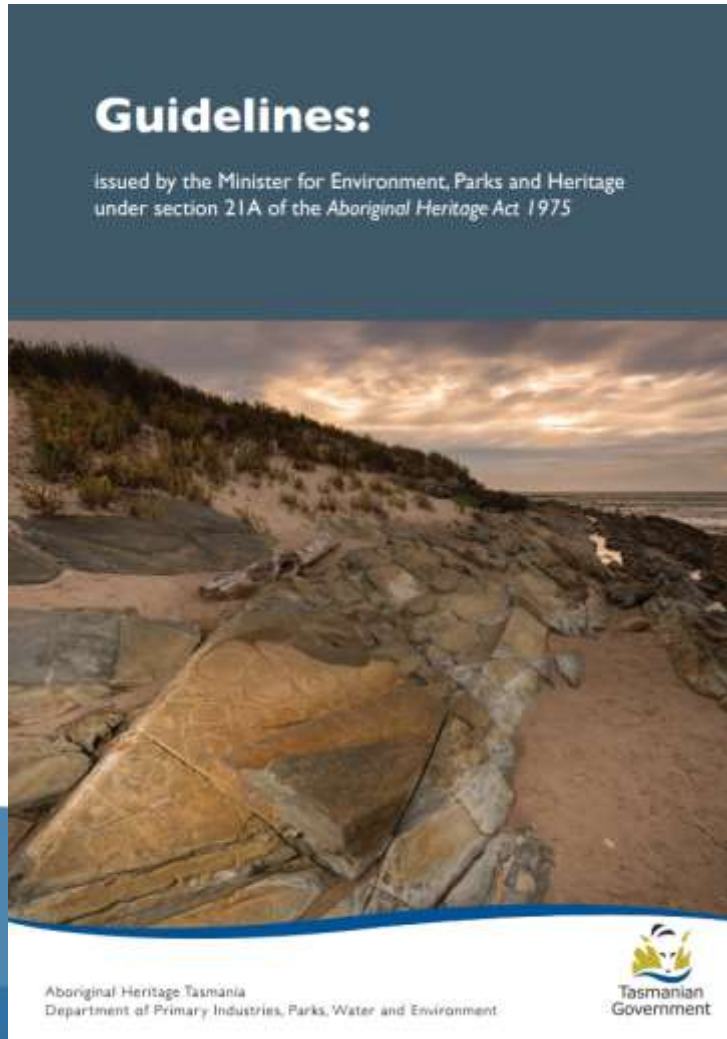


# Amendments to the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*

## What has been amended?

- Name of the Act now “*Aboriginal Heritage Act*”
- Removed reference to 1876 as being a “cut-off” point for Aboriginal heritage
- Increased penalties for damage to Aboriginal heritage
- Introduced tiered offences
- Introduced new defences related to emergency responses and compliance with guidelines
- Extended time limit for prosecuting offences
- Statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council
- Statutory three-year deadline for a full review of the Act

# Ministerial Guidelines (Section 21A)



[www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)



# The Assessment Process



- Desktop Review
- Search Request
- Site Reporting (FPOs)
- Site Recording (Consultants)
- UDP (Contingency)
- Permits

# Aboriginal Heritage Property Search Website/Dial Before You Dig (DBYD)

- Provides a result on whether there are registered Aboriginal relics in an area or a risk of impacting Aboriginal relics
- Determines if there is a need to seek further advice about the presence of Aboriginal relics in an area
- Proponents or consultants working on public land or larger scale developments are advised to contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

[Visit www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/propertysearch](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/propertysearch)

# Aboriginal Heritage Standards and Procedures



[www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)

# FPA Procedures Adopted Document



## Procedures for managing Aboriginal cultural heritage when preparing forest practices plans

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Forest Practices Authority

Tasmania

March 2016

[www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)

# Future Directions

## Discussion Points

- Conserve dataset and AHR
- Future development of the Register - online AHR data (with protocols)
- FPO Assessment and AHC/Community/AHOs (roles; project collaboration)
- Approaches to Aboriginal *Heritage Awareness* Training (App, industry-wide program; ongoing training)
- FPA role in new Act (stakeholder input)

# WORTH PROTECTING

It is important for Tasmania's future that we understand and respect the heritage of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, a history that stretches back thousands of years.



Tasmanian  
Government