

## 9.0 Unanticipated Discovery Plan

The following text describes the proposed method for dealing with unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal archaeological materials on this project. The plan provides guidance to project personnel so that they may meet their obligations with respect to heritage in accordance with the Heritage Act 2004.

Unanticipated discoveries include all Aboriginal site types with the exception of isolated artefacts and low-density artefact scatters. This includes (but may not be limited to) moderate to high-density artefact scatters, scarred trees, stone procurement (quarry) sites, ochre deposits, hearths, scarred trees and skeletal remains (burials).

Please Note: There are two different processes presented for the mitigation of these unanticipated discoveries. The first process applies for the discovery of cultural heritage sites or features, which include all of the site types, mentioned above, with the exception of skeletal remains, burials. The second process applies exclusively to the discovery of skeletal remains (burials).

### ***Discovery of Cultural Heritage Items***

#### Step 1

If any project personnel, contractors or subcontractors believe that they have discovered or uncovered Aboriginal cultural heritage materials, the individual should notify machinery operators that are working in the general vicinity of the area that earth disturbance works should stop immediately. Remember health and safety requirements when approaching machinery operators.

#### Step 2

A buffer protection zone of 20m x 20m should be established around the suspected cultural heritage site or items. No unauthorised entry or earth disturbance will be allowed within this 'archaeological zone' until such time as the suspected cultural heritage items have been assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been carried out.

#### Step 3

An archaeologist, in consultation with the RAOs should carry out an assessment of the cultural heritage find.

#### Step 4

Based on the findings of the assessment, appropriate management recommendations should be developed for the cultural heritage find. These recommendations should be submitted to the ACT Heritage Unit and Heritage Council for review and endorsement.

#### Step 5

Once endorsement has been obtained, the prescribed management recommendations should be carried out by the appropriate personnel.

#### Step 6

On the completion of the prescribed works, the relevant authorities (ACT Heritage Unit and Heritage Council) should advise the Site Supervisor (or other Project Personnel) that construction works may recommence in the 'archaeological zone'. If there are further constraints to construction works in the 'archaeological zone', then the Site Supervisor should be informed of these. It is the responsibility of the Site Supervisor to inform construction crews of these constraints.

### ***Discovery of Skeletal Material***

#### Step 1

Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal remains be touched or disturbed. If these are human remains, then this area potentially is a crime scene. Tampering with a crime scene is a criminal offence.

#### Step 2

Any person discovering suspected skeletal remains should notify machinery operators that are working in the general vicinity of the area that earth disturbing works should stop immediately. Remember health and safety requirements when approaching machinery operators.

#### Step 3

A buffer protection zone of 50m x 50m should be established around the suspected skeletal remains. No unauthorised entry or earth disturbance will be allowed within this buffer zone until such time as the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed.

#### Step 4

The relevant authorities (police) will be contacted and informed of the discovery. If the skeletal remains are suspected to be of Aboriginal origin, the authorities may decide to seek the advice of an archaeologist or appropriate expert in relation to the discovery.

#### Step 5

Should the skeletal remains be declared an Indigenous burial site, the following procedures will be implemented.

- An archaeologist, in consultation with the RAOs should carry out an assessment of the skeletal remains.

- Based on the findings of the assessment, appropriate management recommendations should be developed for the cultural heritage find. These recommendations should be submitted (in the form of a Conservation and Management Plan) to the ACT Heritage Unit and the Heritage Council for review and endorsement.
- Once endorsement has been obtained, the prescribed management recommendations should be carried out by the appropriate personnel.

On the completion of the prescribed works, the relevant authorities (ACT Heritage Unit/Heritage Council) should advise the Site Supervisor (or other Project Personnel) that construction works may recommence in the 'archaeological zone'. If there are further constraints to construction works in the 'archaeological zone', then the Site Supervisor should be informed of these. It is the responsibility of the Site Supervisor to inform construction crews of these constraints.