

SECOND DECISION OF THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION BY WURUNDJERI TRIBE LAND AND COMPENSATION CULTURAL HERITAGE COUNCIL INC. TO BE A REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY

DATE OF DECISION: 27 AUGUST 2009

Decision

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (**the Council**) registers the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc. (**Wurundjeri Inc**) as a registered Aboriginal party (**RAP**) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)* (**the Act**) over a further part of the area for which it has sought to be a RAP (Area B). The Council is still considering the remaining area for which Wurundjeri Inc has sought to be a RAP.

This decision relates to the area between Wurundjeri's existing RAP boundary and the Werribee River, as well as country surrounding Macedon and Mount William.

A map showing the entire area for which Wurundjeri Inc is now a RAP is attached (Attachment 1).

Reasons for Decision

On 22 August 2008 the Council appointed Wurundjeri Inc as a RAP for much of their application area. Since then, Wurundjeri has been responsible for cultural heritage management under the Act for northern Melbourne and surrounds, extending to the Great Dividing Range.

In its previous decision, the Council deferred making a decision for part of the Wurundjeri Inc RAP application where it overlapped claims to country by neighbouring Traditional Owner groups. Part of this area was resubmitted to Council as Area B.

The Area B application previously overlapped with RAP applications from Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (**Taungurung**) and Jaara Jaara Loddon Aboriginal Corporation (**Jarra Jarra**). However Taungurung and Jaara Jaara both voluntarily withdrew their applications from these areas following negotiations with Wurundjeri Inc. There remained at the time of this decision, partial overlaps with Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (**BADAC**) and Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation (**Wandoon Estate**).

The Council wrote to organisations applying to become registered Aboriginal parties in overlapping or neighbouring areas including Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, BADAC, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative as well as Jaara Jaara and Taungurung. In this correspondence, the Council advised these organisations that it may consider Area B for decision at a future meeting and sought comment or objection on a decision to appoint Wurundjeri for Area B. No responses were received.

The Council also corresponded with Wadda Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation which had more recently submitted a RAP application and confirmed their application did not overlap with Area B.

The Council relied upon previous correspondence with Wandoon Estate regarding their traditional boundaries. The Council also relied upon its previous decision to appoint Wurundjeri Inc. in which the Council considered the Wandoon Estate application.

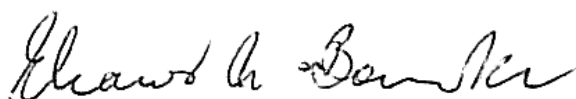
Wurundjeri Inc. relied on information submitted with their original application regarding traditional and familial links. The Council is satisfied that this information applies to Area B.

The Council noted that Wurundjeri Inc has been operating as a RAP for 12 months and noted its history and its previous expertise in cultural heritage management. Council acknowledged Wurundjeri Inc's responsibility for managing Mount William Quarry.

Council had regard to this information, as well as the information contained in the original Wurundjeri Inc. RAP application, and relying on its own cultural knowledge, decided to appoint Wurundjeri Inc. as a RAP for Area B.

Remaining areas of the Wurundjeri RAP application were not considered at this time.

Signed:



Eleanor A Bourke
Chairperson
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council