

Upon receipt of an application (must be in writing)

Step One

The Office of VAHC will contact known interested parties and will put a public notice of the application on the VAHC website and in major regional papers within the relevant application area

Council will allow up to six weeks for public comment on the application (all comments sent to applicant RAP)

Step Two

Public comments and applicant's response will be considered by Council in making its decision

Applicant RAP can respond to Council regarding public comments

Step Three

In making its decision, the Council will consider:

- Material provided by existing RAP applications
- Information resulting from the public notification process
- The group's recognition as a Traditional Owner group by other Traditional Owner communities
- The Council's own cultural knowledge as Traditional Owners of the State
- Available secondary material; and
- The informal perspectives of external experts if and as required
- Formal reports commissioned by the Council and undertaken by independent experts → if this occurs, the applicant will be notified of the substance of information obtained or advice received, and the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond prior to Council making a decision

Step Four

Step Five

Step Six

If Council makes a decision **TO** vary a RAP's boundaries

If Council makes a decision **NOT** to vary a RAP's boundaries

Step Seven

Council will inform the RAP applicant by phone as soon as possible after the decision is made; the Council will also give a written notice to seek the RAP's consent to the variation

The RAP will be notified and the decision will be published on Council's website and circulated by email to stakeholders

Step Eight

Council waits to receive written evidence that the relevant RAP has given consent to the variation

Step Nine

Once consent is received, the Council must give written notice to the RAP and Secretary as soon as the variation has been made

The variation to a RAP's registration will be published on Council's web site and circulated by email to stakeholders

The Secretary makes any necessary amendments to the VAHR