

Taking Control of Our Heritage

VAHC & NNTC Indigenous Cultural
Heritage Conference

Matthew Burns 26th November 2020



(Victorian) Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (The Act)

- ▶ **The Act provides for the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria. It does this through:**
 - Establishment of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council
 - Establishment of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
 - Development of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) process &
 - Cultural Heritage Permit processes for the management of activities which may or is to impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
 - Provisions for sanctions and penalties to prevent non-sanctioned harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
 - Powers granted to Authorised Officers and Aboriginal Heritage Officers for the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC)

- ▶ VAHC was established in 2007
- ▶ Traditional Owner only Council as appointed by the Minister
- ▶ VAHC appoints Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) which are the Traditional Owners of their Country &
- ▶ Oversee RAP operations
- ▶ Ancestral remains reporting, management & return to Country
- ▶ VAHC is the TO voice which advice to the Minister on cultural heritage



Registered Aboriginal Parties in Victoria

Registered Aboriginal Parties*

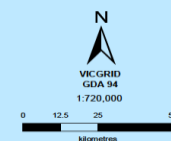
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 - Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 - Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
 - Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
 - First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
 - Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
 - Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
 - Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation
 - Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
 - Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
 - Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Indicates an area where more than one RAP exists
e.g. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

* This map illustrates all Registered Aboriginal Parties on
FEBRUARY 6, 2020.

Registered Aboriginal Parties
in Victoria

This map was produced by Aboriginal Victoria
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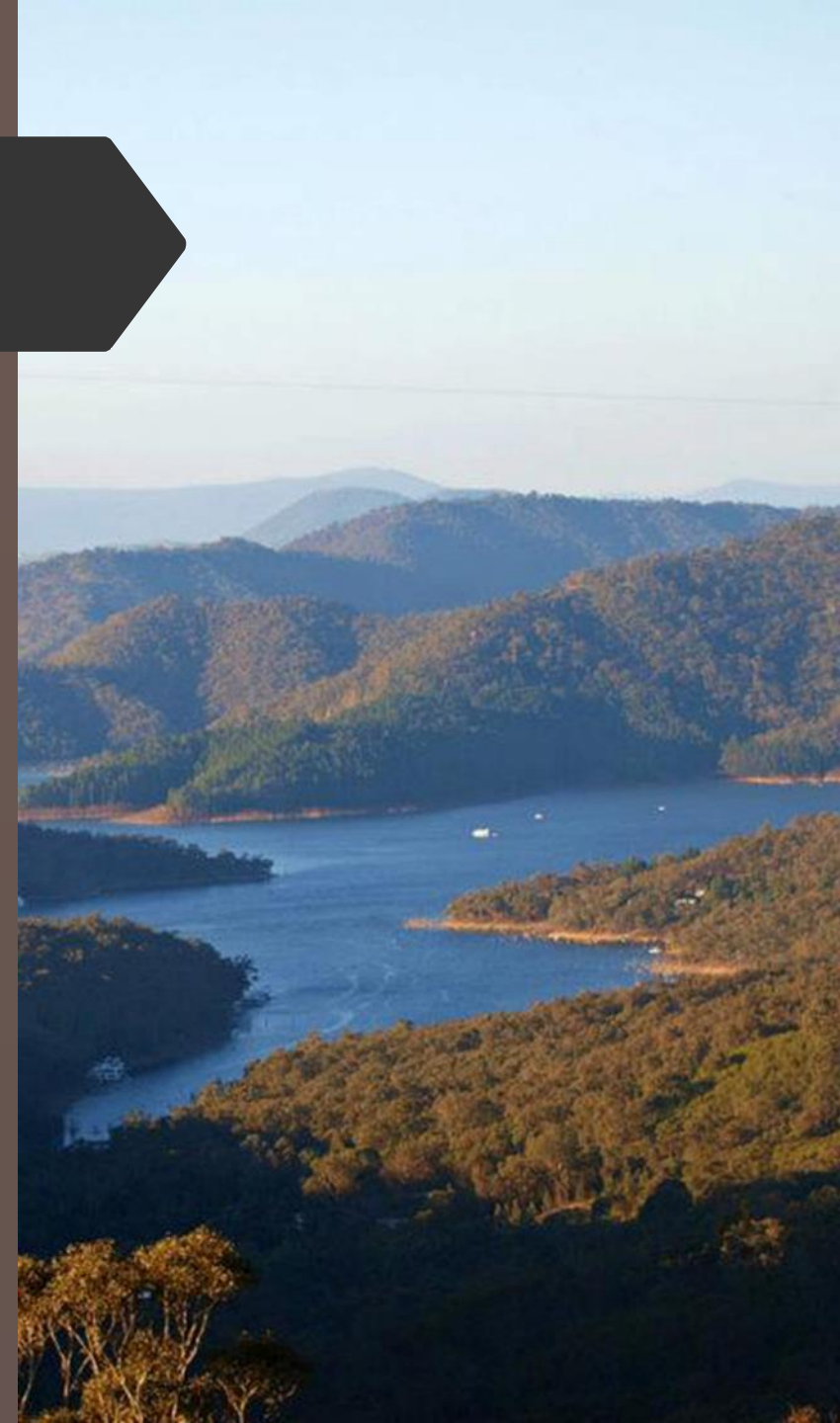


Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) Functions

- **RAPs are Traditional Owner groups, legally recognised under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (as appointed by VAHC), with responsibilities for managing and protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on Country.**
- RAPs are the primary source of advice and knowledge on matters relating to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects on their Country. RAPs core functions include:
 - evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans
 - assessing Cultural Heritage Permit applications
 - making decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements
 - providing advice on applications for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations
 - entering into Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreements with public land managers
 - nominating Aboriginal intangible heritage to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and managing intangible heritage agreements

Legislative Reform to improve protections of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage(VAHC)

- ▶ Council has published a discussion paper on legislative reform
- ▶ Some of reform positions include:
 - Furthering Self-Determination of RAPs
 - Increasing Autonomy of VAHC
 - Recognising, Protecting and Conserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- ▶ Reforms aimed at further transparency and transference of relevant decision-making authority to Traditional Owner groups (RAPs)





QUESTIONS?

▸ THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME