



Cultural Heritage Policy

Scope

This policy governs Hunter Water's approach to cultural heritage management covering conservation and approvals for managed impacts to Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage for all Hunter Water activities and operations.

Policy Statement

Hunter Water's planning, infrastructure delivery, operations and maintenance activities will be conducted with sufficient planning and awareness to prevent or minimise adverse cultural heritage impacts so that the heritage values of cultural heritage sites are maintained.

Application of Policy

Hunter Water will achieve this by:

- Complying with relevant cultural heritage legislation (listed below).
- Having regard to the policies and procedures of key regulatory authorities involved with heritage management, particularly the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).
- Consulting with key stakeholders and communities with an interest in cultural heritage management.
- Involving Aboriginal stakeholders in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage.
- Recognising that key stakeholders should be the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage.
- Respecting the views, traditions, values and beliefs of key stakeholders and communities.
- Setting a standard approach for staged cultural heritage assessment and management through internally published guidelines readily understood by staff and consultants that can be cost effectively implemented.
- Developing tools and resources that inform staff of the location of heritage sites in relation to Hunter Water assets.
- Raising awareness of cultural heritage issues with staff through periodic training.

Associated Regulations and Standards

Section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

S20 E (b) and (c) of the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989*

Parts 4 and 6 of the *Heritage Act 1977*

Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, specifically section 86, section 89A, and section 90

Part 8A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009*

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)

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Various OEH Historic heritage and Aboriginal heritage guidelines on www.environment.gov.au.

Terms, acronyms and definitions

Term	Definition
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
Heritage sites	The location where Aboriginal objects, listed heritage places or historic relics are known to be present.
Aboriginal object	Defined in section 5 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NPW Act) as "any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains" The most common forms of Aboriginal object encountered are Aboriginal flaked stone artefacts.
Aboriginal Place	Any place declared to be an Aboriginal place (under section 84 of the NPW Act) by the Minister administering the NPW Act, by order published in the NSW Government Gazette, because the Minister is of the opinion that the place is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects. At least four Aboriginal Places occur within Hunter Water's operations area.
Listed heritage place	Typically a building or structure (but may include landscape elements) of historic heritage significance that is identified on a schedule of heritage items such as the State Heritage Register, Hunter Water's section 170 register, another NSW State agency's section 170 register, a heritage schedule on a Local Environmental Plan, Commonwealth Heritage List or National Heritage List.

Signed: _____

Managing Director

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