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D17/203054

OPEN LETTER TO HERITAGE ADVISORS – TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PLACE INSPECTION FORMS TO THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE REGISTER

I have become concerned that “Place Inspection” forms are sometimes submitted at the same time as, or even after, a cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) is lodged for evaluation. This creates unnecessary delays.

The Place Inspection form provides a record of inspections and the condition of registered Aboriginal places. This documentation forms part of the registration of an Aboriginal place. It is expected heritage advisors complete a Place Inspection form when visiting any registered Aboriginal place in a professional capacity.

Where there is an existing registration in an activity area for a CHMP:

- It is a requirement that a Place Inspection form is completed as part of the CHMP process to make any alterations to the record
- As with all registrations, ensure these are lodged early and time is allowed for them to be verified by the Heritage Registrar.

From now on, the Heritage Registrar will provide notification that a Place Inspection form has been verified. Similar to the initial registration of an Aboriginal place, you must receive this notification before you submit any associated CHMP for evaluation.

The description in a CHMP of any Aboriginal cultural heritage found in the activity area must be consistent with the registration of that Aboriginal cultural heritage. If the Place Inspection form has not been verified, this may result in the CHMP being refused.

As with all place registrations, submission of Place Inspection forms well in advance of the CHMP will avoid delays. Any enquiries about submitting Place Inspection forms to the VAHR should be addressed to the Heritage Registrar, Aboriginal Victoria (AV) on (03) 8392 5369.

Yours sincerely

Harry Webber
Director, Heritage Services
Aboriginal Victoria

5 September 2017