

Aboriginal heritage and cultural values



Aboriginal cultural values are central to connection to Country. Cultural landscapes hold stories through physical heritage and the deep spiritual, social and emotional connections to land, as well as the ongoing practice of culture.

For Aboriginal people, Country is all-encompassing and closely tied to cultural identity. These values guide how Aboriginal heritage is understood, respected, protected and cared for by the Aboriginal community.

Community members have told us it is important to understand how cultural values and heritage will be respected and protected during construction and operation of the Project.



Elements of 'Healing Country' artwork by Bianca Templar, Truwulway and Bunurong woman

What we studied



The Tarraleah hydropower scheme is located in lutruwita's (Tasmania's) Central Highlands, within the traditional lands of the Big River Nation.

An Aboriginal heritage assessment has been completed for the Project.

The report assessed:

- eight confirmed Aboriginal heritage sites
- two legacy sites (stone artefact scatters)
- four Potential Areas of Sensitivity (PAS) where artefacts may be present.

The assessment considered potential impacts under the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975. The report has been provided to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.

The report is not publicly available out of respect for the community, as it contains culturally sensitive information.

Working together



Tasmanian Aboriginal people feel that heritage legislation and planning processes do not adequately reflect Aboriginal perspectives or ways of caring for Country.

Hydro Tasmania is committed to building genuine relationships based on respect, trust, and ongoing conversation with Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples.

We want to strengthen connections with Aboriginal people grounded in respect, trust, and shared understanding. This commitment is reflected in our Commitment and Action Plan.

A key area of focus is protecting and caring for Country. We are currently seeking partnerships that support Tasmanian Aboriginal people to be on Country and to work together to protect Aboriginal heritage and cultural values.

Understanding impacts



We acknowledge the deep and continuing connection that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to the land and waters where our lakes and power stations operate.

We are working with the Aboriginal community to identify, understand, and manage Aboriginal heritage and cultural values within the Project area by:

- sharing the findings of the heritage assessment
- providing opportunities for on-Country visits
- better understanding cultural landscapes and intangible values
- working with community throughout the Project.



Protecting culture



We're committed to protecting culture throughout the lifecycle of the Project. We will work with our contractor to:

- provide Cultural Awareness training for all staff involved in the Project
- follow Tasmania's Unanticipated Discovery Plan, which sets out how unexpected finds will be managed
- work with the Aboriginal community to gain approval and permits to move artefacts if they are discovered but cannot be avoided.

Creating opportunities



The Project will support social and economic participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We will work with our contractor to:

- increase opportunities for Aboriginal employment and training
- support education and skill development
- encourage investment that benefits Aboriginal communities.

Speak to Sharnie

We invite you to speak to Sharnie Read. Sharnie works with us to provide guidance and advice, to ensure Aboriginal priorities are heard, respected and embedded in our approach.

She can support you with accessing the EIS, facilitating your questions being answered, and making a submission - if you choose.

You can contact Sharnie on **0488 289 946** or email palitirruniislandspirit@gmail.com

Sharnie can be reached via social media platforms and messenger if this is your preferred method of communication. Leave Sharnie a message to contact you and she will facilitate a time and space that works best for you to have input into this process.



About the Environmental Impact Statement

We have prepared a range of documents to provide information at different levels of detail, so you can choose what best suits your interests and needs.

Separate, topic specific fact sheets are available for key aspects of the EIS. They explain what was studied, what was found, and how potential impacts would be managed, in plain English. The fact sheets don't cover all aspects of the proposal or all potential impacts assessed as part of the EIS.

A Summary EIS is available and provides an overview of all topics assessed as part of the EIS. The Full EIS contains detailed technical studies, data and assessments considered as part of the environmental assessment process.

Have your say

The EIS is on public exhibition, and submissions are welcomed from anyone in the community. All feedback received will form part of the EPA's assessment of the project.

Scan the QR code to visit our website:

- View the Summary EIS and full EIS
- View our Fact Sheets on a range of EIS topics
- Find out how to make a submission.



Questions or concerns?

You are welcome to contact us by phone or email if you would like more information or have a question about the project.



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