

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 Review

Discussion Paper Proposals

Position comparison between current and proposed new systems: Aboriginal heritage professionals

CURRENT POSITION	PROPOSED POSITION
Heritage professionals are unregulated and the standard and quality of practice varies significantly	A public Directory of Heritage Professionals will be established by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Listing in the directory will be open to those with appropriate qualifications and experience. Applicants will be expected to formally attest to the accuracy of all information and claims in their application and professional referees will be required to support claims to particular areas of practice or expertise. Listing in the directory will not be mandatory and being listed will not constitute an endorsement or recommendation from the department.
There are no set criteria or guidelines for the production of heritage reports	The Aboriginal Heritage Council will set minimum standards for the investigation, recording and reporting of Aboriginal heritage and they will be made publicly available. Heritage professionals will receive clear guidance on what is required through the project referral process. A referral will generate a binding level of assessment being attached to that project, which will specify what Aboriginal heritage investigations are to be completed in order to facilitate any eventual approvals. Where heritage agreements are in place that pre-date the new Act, these processes can be relied on, provided the agreement is ratified under the

	<p>new Act and they meet, or exceed, the level of assessment required. Any materials lodged that do not meet the required standard will not be accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance will be clearly communicated.</p>
<p>There is no regulation or schedule of fees for what heritage consultants can charge</p>	<p>No change. The State does not regulate what fees can be charged in any other profession.</p>
<p>It is difficult for land use proponents or Aboriginal organisations to know which heritage consultants will provide a professional service</p>	<p>A public Directory of Heritage Professionals will be established by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Land use proponents and Local Aboriginal Heritage Services will be encouraged, but will not be required, to source advice from heritage professionals whose details are entered on the directory and who have expertise appropriate to the land use under consideration. The Aboriginal Heritage Council will set minimum standards for the investigation, recording and reporting of Aboriginal Heritage and they will be made publicly available. If they wish to, land use proponents and Local Aboriginal Heritage Services will be able to incorporate these requirements into their contractual arrangements with their heritage consultants.</p>