

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage in South Australia takes many forms and includes objects like artefacts made of wood, bone and stone, and sites like artefact scatters, culturally modified (scarred) trees, campsites, quarries, stone arrangements, shell middens, ancestral burials, rock art and historical places. The Kurna Peoples are the Traditional Custodians of the T2D Project area and the wider Adelaide region.



River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and objects may relate to Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and ceremonial activities, living patterns and burials and the use of resources such as water, flora, fauna, and stone. Sites may be obvious or subtle features in the landscape or may be completely hidden beneath the ground's surface. Some sites may have very little material evidence left but remain significant in the the oral traditions of Aboriginal communities.

Existing environment

At the time of European settlement, the Kurna People inhabited an area extending from Crystal Brook in the north to Cape Jervis in the south and inland to the western edge of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Since European settlement in the 1830s, South Road has been subject to significant development and has been highly modified. Even so, the Kurna community continue to have strong connection to Country. Any land, developed or undeveloped, may contain Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of significance to Aboriginal archaeology, anthropology, tradition and history.

A search of the Attorney-General's Department's Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AGD-AAR) Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects shows there are no registered sites within the project land. Two landscape features that generally carry higher risks for the discovery of Aboriginal sites and objects, as advised by AGD-ARR, that are located within the project corridor are:

- areas within close proximity to creeks and waterways such as River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri, Keswick Creek and Brownhill Creek / Willawilla
- places bearing Aboriginal names, or place names which are English translations of Aboriginal names or indications of Aboriginal interaction with the landscape.

The project is within the Kurna Native Title Determination Area. None of the 17 parcels of land for which native title was determined are within or are in proximity to the T2D Project. As a result, the project design does not encroach on native title land where native title exists.

Potential impacts to existing environment

The project has the potential to cause both construction and operational impacts to unknown Aboriginal heritage, however, the likelihood of encountering Aboriginal sites, objects or remains in highly modified and disturbed soils is low. Even so, there are areas within the project area that may have a higher potential for encountering Aboriginal heritage including ground disturbance work within and surrounding the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri and Keswick Creek and Brownhill Creek / Willawilla.

Any land, developed or undeveloped, may contain Aboriginal sites, objects or remains even if the AGD-AAR does not identify them. There is a risk, as for any infrastructure project of encountering unknown Aboriginal heritage sites, objects or remains.

Potential operational impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage are not anticipated as ground disturbing works will occur during construction phase, some ground disturbing works may be required for maintenance.

Alternatives, mitigation and opportunities

The Department's Master Specification, with links to the Department's Environment and Heritage Technical Manual (EHTM) have requirements applicable to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage applicable to the project. The requirements will be applied to mitigate Aboriginal heritage impacts in the design and construction of the project.

A suitably qualified archaeologist/heritage specialist has undertaken an assessment of Aboriginal heritage sites, objects or remains that may be located within (or in proximity to) the project. Consultation and liaison with relevant Aboriginal group(s) or representatives in relation to Aboriginal heritage matters will also be undertaken.

The project will undertake an Assessment of Outcomes for Aboriginal people, including identifying opportunities to celebrate and recognise Aboriginal heritage. This potentially includes Aboriginal cultural expression in the design of the project (including murals and sculptures) and the investigation of naming of open spaces and assets (like bridges and structures). A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared prior to work starting. It will be implemented and maintained to manage potential environmental and heritage effects and risks.



Mural art by Mike Makatron and Harley Hall, Torrens Road bridge, Ovingham Level Crossing Removal Project

The CEMP will include an unexpected finds protocol in accordance with provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* to manage unidentified Aboriginal heritage sites or objects in the unlikely event they are discovered during construction.

Approvals, permits and authorisations

No legislative approvals are currently required. If an unregistered or unknown Aboriginal site, objects or remains are uncovered during construction, compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* including approvals will be required to ensure compliance with the Act, the Department's EHTM Attachment – 2A Aboriginal Sites, Objects, and Ancestral Discovery Procedure will be implemented and followed.

Scan the QR code to view the suite of assessments included in the PAR or visit T2D.sa.gov.au/PAR.

