

# Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)



## Guardians and Knowledge Holders of Cultural Heritage

**The Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC) was registered as a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) on 16 July 2009, under the provisions of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006).**

TLWC is the corporate representative of the Taungurung people and serves to uphold their interests with respect to culture and Country.

The appointment of TLWC as a RAP ensures that the Taungurung people are able to manage, celebrate and protect their cultural heritage on their traditional Country.

The exercise of its RAP status, and the rights and responsibilities that go with that, is an important function of the Corporation. It allows for the recovery and protection of artefacts such as stone axes, and for the protection of significant cultural places, creation stories, and other aspects of material culture. These matters provide decision-making power to Taungurung people in protecting their cultural heritage and create employment opportunities in cultural heritage management.

RAPs are the primary source of advice and knowledge on matters relating to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects in their region.

Their core functions include:

- Evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs)
- Assessing Cultural Heritage Permit applications
- Making decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements
- Providing advice on applications for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations
- Entering into Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreements
- Nominating Aboriginal intangible heritage to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and managing intangible heritage agreements

© State of Victoria





## Rights & Responsibilities of Registered Aboriginal Parties

### Registered Aboriginal Parties can:

- Approve (or not approve) Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), which are written reports that are required when a high impact activity is planned in an area of Cultural Heritage sensitivity
- Approve (or not approve) permit applications
- Enter into Cultural Heritage Agreements
- Enter into Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreements (ACHLMA), which are voluntary agreements made between a RAP and a public land manager
- Advise on repatriation of remains and secret/sacred objects

### Registered Aboriginal Parties can charge fees for:

- Evaluation of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (prescribed in regulations)
- Consultation with a sponsor on a proposed Cultural Heritage assessment and management plan; and
- Participation in a Cultural Heritage assessment

**TLaWC, as the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party for Taungurung Country, is available to work with Local Government Authorities, State Government departments and other public and private stakeholders to advise them on best practice in recognising, protecting and managing Taungurung cultural heritage.**

## The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

- Ensures and facilitates the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.
- Establishes the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC), the all-Aboriginal body that grants RAP status to appropriate Traditional Owner corporations, such as TLaWC
- Provides for the appointment of Authorised Officers and Aboriginal Heritage Officers
- Promotes public awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Ensures the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects in Victoria
- Makes the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage an integral part of land and natural resource management in Victoria

**Contact us:** [careforculture@taungurung.com.au](mailto:careforculture@taungurung.com.au)

