

APPENDIX 3: UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL

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An Aboriginal artefact is anything which is the result of past Aboriginal activity. This includes stone (artefacts, rock engravings etc.), plant (culturally scarred trees) and animal (if showing signs of modification; i.e. smoothing, use). Human bone (skeletal) remains may also be uncovered while onsite.

Cultural heritage significance is assessed by the Aboriginal community and is typically based on traditional and contemporary lore, spiritual values, and oral history, and may also take into account scientific and educational value.

Protocol to be followed in the event that previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal object(s) are encountered:

- All ground surface disturbance in the area of the finds should cease immediately the finds are uncovered.
 - a) The discoverer of the find(s) will notify machinery operators in the immediate vicinity of the find(s) so that work can be halted; and
 - b) The site supervisor will be informed of the find(s).
- If there is substantial doubt regarding an Aboriginal origin for the finds, then gain a qualified opinion from an archaeologist as soon as possible. This can circumvent proceeding further along the protocol for items which turn out not to be archaeological. If a quick opinion cannot be gained, or the identification is positive, then proceed to the next step.
- Immediately notify the following authorities or personnel of the discovery:
 - a) OEH (Southwest Office);
 - b) the Broken Hill LALC;
- Facilitate, in co-operation with the appropriate authorities and Aboriginal groups:
 - a) The recording and assessment of the finds;
 - b) Fulfilling any legal constraints arising from the find(s). This will include complying with OEH directions; and
 - c) The development and conduct of appropriate management strategies. Strategies will depend on consultation with the Broken Hill LALC and other stakeholders and the assessment of the significance of the find(s).
- Where the find(s) are determined to be Aboriginal Objects, any re-commencement of construction related ground surface disturbance may only resume in the area of the find(s) following compliance with any consequential legal requirements and gaining written approval from OEH (as required).