

CHAMP Protocols

Aboriginal cultural heritage issues are often seen as complex by those seeking to implement planning and development decisions that impact on the protection and conservation of Aboriginal sites and places. Land users, land managers, and cultural heritage professionals may have difficulty in identifying and acknowledging issues of importance to Aboriginal people. Certain procedural steps, broadly described as 'Protocols', can assist in clarifying and resolving issues of difference. Protocols are an important feature of Aboriginal culture and their acknowledgement and adherence provides the best means for mutual respect and understanding.

Maintaining cultural identity and a 'sense of place' is a significant component of any community and this is particularly valued by Indigenous Australians. Such values create and maintain links between Aboriginal belief systems of spiritual, social, and physical dimensions, and this ensures a connection to ancestors and the past. Individuals and groups of Aboriginal people can place a different emphasis on their cultural identity and for this reason correct protocols can vary for changing circumstances and situations. Protocols should be clarified with appropriate community groups and nominated individuals prior to any work or research being undertaken. The correct approach is to 'Ask First'.

There is a growing body of work that assists in defining appropriate protocols for working with Aboriginal communities. These all recognise the unique position that Aboriginal communities have in the country, in which they represent the original custodians and managers of the land. The CHAMP is especially interested in supporting and encouraging particular behaviour that is culturally appropriate in the context of researchers and other non-Aboriginal groups working with Aboriginal communities.

Advice available covers a range of topics that researchers and officials are likely to encounter. The following is a list of examples of guidelines relevant to a project such as the CHAMP. Readers should note that these may all overlap, and are founded upon principles of respect and cooperation. A recommended site to begin with is the NSW

Reconciliation Council portal which has connecting links to other specific sites and resources: http://nswrecon.com/resources/resource_categories/protocols/. A list of protocols in place for both research and fieldwork for the Bundjalung community has been included for information.

(Insert link to sub-portal) See page 4

Welcome to country and acknowledgment of country

<http://www.aboriginaleducation.nsw.edu.au/Welcome%20to%20Country1.txt>

<http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/data/files//Aboriginal%20CulturalProtocolsandPracticesPolicyFINAL.pdf>

Ethics and codes of conduct

http://nswrecon.com/resources/resource_categories/protocols

<http://www.abc.net.au/message/proper/ethics.htm>

Research methods

http://nswrecon.com/resources/resource_categories/protocols

<http://www.abc.net.au/message/proper/ethics.htm>

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Talking+history+oral+history+guidelines>

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal_studies_press/find_a_book/reference/telling_it_like_it_is

- I. Davidson, C. Lovell-Jones, R. Bancroft (eds) p.18-21. *Archaeologists and Aborigines Working Together*. University of New England Press, Armidale.

Consultation & protocols

http://nswrecon.com/resources/resource_categories/protocols

http://hsc.csu.edu.au/ab_studies/major_project/the_project/pcwelcome.html#Community%20consultation

<http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/resources/cultures.cfm>

Copyright & cultural ownership

http://nswrecon.com/resources/resource_categories/protocols

http://hsc.csu.edu.au/ab_studies/major_project/the_project/pcwelcome.html#Community%20consultation

Heritage management

<http://www.ahc.gov.au/publications/indigenousheritage/index.html>

Media

<http://www.abc.net.au/message/proper/ethics.htm>

Examples of local government authority protocols fro working with Aboriginal communities

http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au/webcomm/page/page.asp?page_Id=855&h=0

http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services_In_Geelong/Planning/Strategic_Planning/Aboriginal_Protocol

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Community/ServicesAndPrograms/AboriginalAndTorresStraitIslanders/Protocols.asp>

Libraries, archives and information services

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/protocol.html>

<http://alia.org.au/policies/atsi.protocols>

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/wsd/1480.htm>

Visiting Aboriginal land

<http://indigenoustralia.frogandtoad.com.au/land1.html>

Protocol and Procedures for the Bundjalung Nation Cultural Heritage, Natural Resources and Environmental Management Committee

Source acknowledgement:

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Policy and procedures for researching and accessing cultural information

- Must have approval prior to obtaining cultural information (ask first)
- Must have written documentation explaining project/research
- Must not use cultural information inappropriately
- Must not use information for other business, other than the written request
- Must not publish cultural knowledge and information without the approval of the Bundjalung Nation Cultural Heritage, Natural Resources and Environmental Management Committee
- Must provide a written report for approval following completion (or part completion) of the project/research
- Written reports are to be signed off by the Bundjalung Nation Cultural Heritage, Natural Resources and Environmental Management Committee
- Individual work that is being undertaken in the Bundjalung Nation must be culturally appropriate for the Aboriginal communities concerned

Policy and procedures for field work

- Relevant consent forms must be signed
- Initial consultation and requests must have maps showing where work is to be undertaken
- Must identify the type of work to be undertaken

- Must identify the precise location for the work to be undertaken
- Must have consent and approval from the Aboriginal traditional owners/custodians for the relevant local area of Bundjalung country
- Must notify the Local Aboriginal Land Council in the respective area/s where work is to be carried out
- Consent forms must be completed and recorded appropriately
- Appropriate Aboriginal Sites Officers must be consulted and advised
- Wider consultation with the Aboriginal community and other relevant stakeholders is required
- All records, including site reports, must be completed where appropriate
- Aboriginal Sites Officers must sign a written agreement/contract prior to any work commencement, when appropriate
- All consultants must sign a written agreement/contract prior to any work commencement
- A legal document agreeing to specified conditions and guidelines (as stated) must be signed by consultants and/or those seeking/undertaking field work