



AACAI WA

A POSITION STATEMENT

The **Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists (AACAI)** is a National representative body that promotes professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological and heritage practice, advocates for heritage protection, and aims to bring recognition of, and respect to, our profession.

The Western Australian Chapter of AACAI has developed this Position Statement to ensure development and growth of Western Australia continues without loss of our unique identity and heritage.

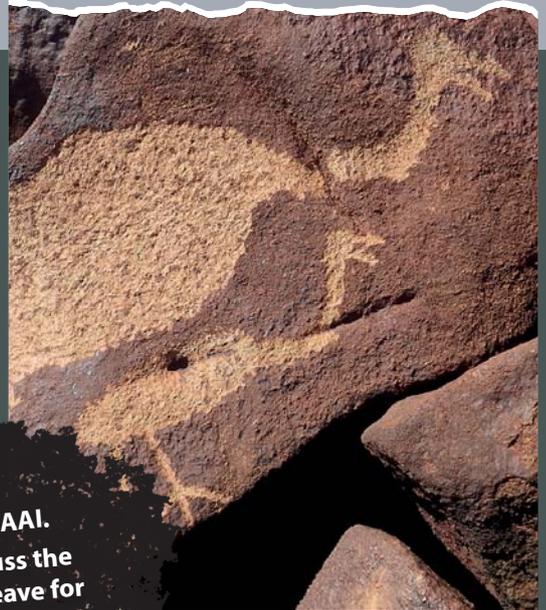
We urge government to embrace the urgent need for improved stakeholder engagement and policy reform. AACAI WA advocates for policy change that is balanced and reasonable, considers all stakeholder parties, preserves the natural beauty of our state, and celebrates and recognises the importance of its cultural heritage.

Who is AACAI WA?

AACAI WA is the peak professional body for heritage practitioners in Western Australia. Its members hold a wealth of knowledge and have a vast array of experience in heritage matters. AACAI WA members work closely with Aboriginal groups to assist in managing heritage. Consulting archaeologists work with industry to bridge the divide between commercial innovation and Aboriginal community need, ensuring balance in development that allows Aboriginal culture and heritage to survive as well as reap benefit from new technology and development.

AACAI WA VISION

- To live and work in a vibrant, modern Western Australia that values and respects its heritage.
- To support balanced development in Western Australia heritage needs to be considered early in the planning process, acknowledged as being fundamental to community identity and wellbeing. The study and management of our heritage brings real benefits to people's daily lives and we strive to have heritage recognised for its important role in economic growth and tourism.
- To work with government, industry and Aboriginal community to find the best outcomes to manage our heritage well and support development and economic growth.



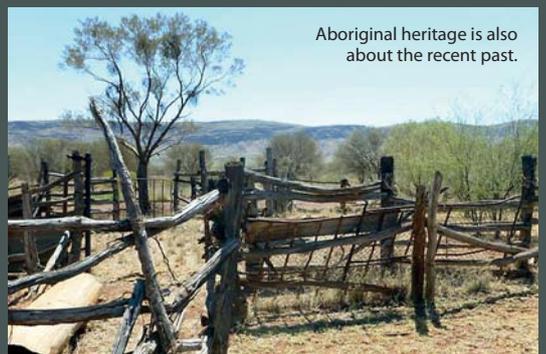
Talk to AACAI.
Let us discuss the legacy we leave for future generations of Australians.



Heritage practitioners consult with people in all facets of their work.



Balls of spinifex resin were used as a type of cement to make Aboriginal implements.



Aboriginal heritage is also about the recent past.

The Importance of Heritage

Heritage is those things from the past which are valued enough today to save for the people of tomorrow.

Heritage takes many forms, and can include family heirlooms, a historic building in the centre of Perth, a rock art site in the Kimberley, an Aboriginal campsite, or a particular landscape you have known all your life.

Heritage is the inheritance of future generations. It

includes dynamic and knowledgeable Aboriginal cultures with continuing connections to some of humanity's oldest sites. There are many positive benefits to looking after heritage. **Heritage enhances community identity and wellbeing** and is an educational resource for all. Heritage is also a **proven source of economic growth** through sustainable heritage tourism.



Western Australia's ongoing growth and development is important. We need to find the right balance between development and protection. This can be achieved by ensuring that guidance around heritage assessments and decisions is clear, concise and founded on agreed principles and sound evidence.

Principles for Heritage Management in WA

AACAI WA has identified a set of principles and recommendations which will help guide the development of a balanced approach to looking after Aboriginal heritage.

These measures can be implemented either immediately or within the short term.

Visit our website
www.acaai.com.au
 Email us to arrange a chat:
AACAI_sec@outlook.com

OBJECTIVE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Improve recognition of Aboriginal heritage by ensuring it is considered early in the planning process	01 Establish clear guidance for community consultation about, assessment on, and timelines for development projects that affect heritage.
	02 Update and improve the Due Diligence Guidelines, in collaboration with AACAI WA, Aboriginal groups, stakeholders and other interest groups.
Balance the heritage process	03 Include Aboriginal voice and involvement in decisions about Aboriginal heritage.
	04 Include adequate representation of social, archaeological, educational values to balance heritage processes.
	05 Improve integration of Native Title Representative Bodies and Land Councils into the planning and political processes.
Improve transparency and accountability	06 Increase the transparency of heritage decisions to ensure a more equitable system.
	07 Establish clear measures to improve and clarify the accountability of the Regulator; including the site registration process.
	08 Establish a regular forum with the Regulator, members from Aboriginal groups, AACAI and other relevant interest groups, to improve communication, develop policy direction and share information.
Improve heritage register information, access and accuracy	09 Establish measures to improve the accuracy and quality of the Register to enable better decision making.
	10 Direct resources to processing the backlog of unassessed heritage places ("lodged places").
	11 Ensure that the Regulator improves its capacity, through employing staff with experience in heritage management, to moderate and review site assessments, and maintain and extend the Register.
Prioritise open dialogue in reforms and legislative changes	12 Legislative or administrative reform may be needed to achieve some of these recommendations. Consultation about any legislative or administrative reform should be clear, comprehensive and transparent.
	13 Establish an advisory body with balanced representation from Aboriginal groups, AACAI and other interest groups to advise on heritage reform and legislative change.
Promote excellence in professional practice	14 Promote exemplary practice in heritage and archaeology.
	15 Publicise innovation in practice.
	16 Define and promote standards and ethics.
	17 Encourage intellectual rigour and a research ethos.
	18 Advocate and organise training and professional development in collaboration with Aboriginal groups, AACAI and interested parties.