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AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INCORPORATED

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MEDIA RELEASE – CONDEMNATION OF ATTACKS ON CAMP SOVEREIGNTY

Camp Sovereignty is the name given to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protest movement dedicated to ending genocide, acknowledging Traditional Owner sovereignty, and securing treaty. The primary location of the Camp Sovereignty protest is the Kings Domain Resting Place, located in Melbourne, Victoria.

On Sunday 31 August 2025, a group of men, including known neo-Nazi far right extremists, carried out an unprovoked attack on Camp Sovereignty. The attackers were allegedly armed with pipes and large tree branches, and appeared to be targeting women and older members of the site's encampment, as well as carrying out extensive damage to the Kings Domain Resting Place.

The Kings Domain Resting Place is a highly significant place for Aboriginal people. As a former gathering site for Kulin Nations people, the place now serves as the final resting place for the repatriated remains of 38 Aboriginal Victorians. It is included on the Australian National Heritage List and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and is therefore protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. This protection means that individuals who cause harm to the heritage values of the Kings Domain Resting Place face substantial penalties under Federal and State legislation.

AACAI strongly condemn the attacks on Camp Sovereignty and denounce the cowardly actions of those who took part.

AACAI is the peak professional body representing consulting archaeologists in Australia. Our members work closely with Aboriginal people to assist in the management, protection and conservation of their cultural heritage. AACAI are committed to supporting Aboriginal people and their rights under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). These include the right to practice cultural traditions, the right to protect sacred sites and the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security without being subjected to acts of violence and intimidation.

We urge the Victorian government to take all necessary action to ensure this never happens again, including exploring the potential scope for legislative reform to criminalise acts of deliberate intimidation, disruption and harm directed at Aboriginal people undertaking cultural business at Aboriginal places. It is essential that Aboriginal people are able to practice culture freely, without fear of intimidation or harm.
