



Granite Island Causeway Project

Aboriginal Heritage

The State Heritage listed Granite Island Causeway is a popular tourist attraction and important to the local, regional and State economies. The iconic landmark is the only link between Granite Island and the mainland at Victor Harbor, with the Island having cultural significance to the Traditional Owners, the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri people.

The South Australian Government has committed \$31.1 million to build a the Granite Island Causeway next to the existing Causeway to continue to deliver and enhance social and economic benefits to the region and provide a long-term solution that is environmentally sensitive.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) recognises the traditional custodians of the area, and their commitment and responsibility to the ongoing protection, management and maintenance of Country. Engagement with the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri communities is paramount, and vital to the success of the project. The Department is committed to this ongoing engagement with the Aboriginal community, and their elected representatives.

As part of the Causeway project, the Department intends to highlight the importance of this area and celebrate the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri continued connection to Country.

How will the Causeway Project consider Aboriginal heritage?

The Department has undertaken an extensive process of consultation and engagement with the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri representative bodies in determining the management of the cultural and heritage aspects of the area. Every effort has been, and will continue to be made throughout the the project to avoid and minimise any impact to Aboriginal Sites, Objects and Remains as required by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

Heritage surveys were conducted with the Traditional Owners of the area, with the findings informing the heritage management process and the appropriate approvals process. As a result, a Section 23 Authorisation under the *South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* was sought and acquired for this project. This process included broad consultation with the Traditional Owners of the area, with

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their opinion and guidance viewed as a very welcome and valuable asset to the successful delivery of the project.

Will there be any opportunities for the Aboriginal Community?

It is the intention that the new Causeway will deliver and enhance the social, environmental and economic benefits to the region. The design of the Causeway and the associated public spaces has also presented additional opportunities for expressions of the Connection to Country.

The Department is ensuring that the project appropriately acknowledges the cultural and heritage values of the area, and has engaged local artists and designers to develop culturally appropriate expressions. The Aboriginal communities have also been actively engaged and kept informed on the management and design of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the area.

To receive project updates and information as it becomes available, please register your details via the project mailing list.

To find out more about the project, provide feedback or register to receive project updates, please:

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