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19/01/2006
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ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE POLICY

This policy applies to all land in the Shire.

Policy Basis

Nillumbik Shire lies within land occupied by the Wurundjeri - willam clan of the Woi wurrung speaking people. The Woi wurrung territory took in the watersheds of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and thus occupies much of the areas of present day metropolitan Melbourne. Healesville, to the immediate east of the Shire, is a major focus of the region. A large number of existing Aboriginal archaeological sites which contribute to the cultural heritage of the region have been identified within the Shire of Nillumbik.

Objectives

- To provide for the identification of sites of Aboriginal cultural significance and the appropriate level of management in consultation with the local Aboriginal community.
- To ensure new uses, developments and works do not impede on or detract from sites and features of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological significance.

Policy

It is policy that:

- The identification, protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values should be promoted.
- A planning application for land in an area where there is a known heritage site should include a report from a suitably qualified archaeologist, approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, demonstrating what the impact would be of the proposal on existing Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- Any planning application in an area which is relatively undisturbed (i.e. no known history of vegetation clearance and/or activities which involve the modification of existing land surfaces either by soil removal, soil movement or filling) and is within 200 metres of a river or creek should include an archaeological survey conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. If the site is identified as an Aboriginal archaeological site, a report from a suitably qualified archaeologist, approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, should be provided which demonstrates what the impact would be of the proposal on existing Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Policy Reference

- Nillumbik Shire Council Aboriginal Heritage Study, 1996