



## Cultural heritage

Peninsula Link is one of the largest road projects to be undertaken on the Mornington Peninsula. Work began in February 2010 and is due for completion in early 2013. Southern Way has been selected to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the new freeway. Southern Way, and its construction contractor Abigroup, are making every effort to minimise the environmental impact of Peninsula Link.

## Protecting cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is a legacy preserved for future generations. This legacy can include buildings, historic places and monuments, and can be significant for aesthetic, historic, social or spiritual reasons.

Large infrastructure developments, such as Peninsula Link, can impact on culturally significant sites. Whenever possible, it is important that these impacts are identified and minimised. By law, Abigroup is required to protect culturally significant places and artefacts. Abigroup believes it has a moral obligation to protect heritage value.



No go zone signage protects cultural heritage areas.



Local aboriginal communities assist in salvaging artefacts of aboriginal cultural significance.

## Managing sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance

Abigroup has prepared a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Peninsula Link project which has been approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

Archaeological digs were undertaken as part of this plan to investigate sensitive Aboriginal sites for cultural heritage value. A Historical Heritage Assessment was also completed to identify any post settlement sites of significance.

During the archaeological digs, a number of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified within and adjacent to Peninsula Link's route. One site of post settlement historical significance was discovered.

To protect these places, Abigroup will:

- ▶ undertake a detailed program to salvage artefacts prior to the start of construction
- ▶ establish fenced 'no go' zones to protect areas where construction will be prohibited
- ▶ use construction methods that will have minimal impacts on known cultural heritage sites.



Heritage areas are fenced off and protected from construction activities prior to salvage works commencing.

## Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

Indigenous people are the authority on indigenous cultural heritage. Two Land Councils, the Boon Wurrung Foundation Inc and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, were consulted during the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

These groups will continue to play an important role in assisting the project team on site in recording, salvaging and protecting places of Aboriginal cultural significance.



An excavation pit at one of the project heritage sites.

Should Aboriginal places or objects other than those already identified be discovered during construction, work will be suspended, the site fenced off and the project's Cultural Heritage Advisor will attend the site to assess its cultural significance.



## Protecting post settlement cultural heritage

A historical site in Frankston, the Westerfield property, has been identified as containing items of heritage significance and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The property supports native vegetation and items of post settlement heritage significance and was once used to grow crops for a pharmaceutical company.

To preserve the historical aspect of the Westerfield property, an audit of the heritage items has been undertaken.

Heritage items on the site include:

- ▶ timber and steel dam reinforcing
- ▶ a historic wooden depth gauge
- ▶ remnants of a jetty
- ▶ irrigation piping near the edge of the dam.

The project team is committed to minimising impacts on this property, including the bushland. Heritage areas to be retained have been identified as 'no go' zones and will be fenced and protected prior to construction works. This will allow for the retention of as many items of heritage significance as possible.

Where this is not possible, heritage items will be relocated under supervision of a qualified archaeologist and the project's Cultural Heritage Advisor.

## Do you need information?

The Peninsula Link Community Relations team works with stakeholders affected by the project and keeps the community well informed about construction progress.

You can get in touch with us by phoning our project community line on 1300 453 035. This number will operate 24 hours during major construction so you can reach us at any time.

You can find out more about the project by visiting: [www.peninsulalink.com.au](http://www.peninsulalink.com.au).

### Contact Details



If you require the assistance of an interpreter please phone (03) 9280 0753

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