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D18/176104

OPEN LETTER TO HERITAGE ADVISORS – SUPERVISION OF COMPLEX ASSESSMENTS

This letter clarifies Regulation 65(3) of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018. Regulation 65(3) is part of the Standards for the preparation of a cultural heritage management plan (the Standards).

Under Regulation 65(3), 'a disturbance or an excavation for a complex assessment must be supervised by a person appropriately qualified in archaeology and be carried out in accordance with proper archaeological practice'.

For the avoidance of doubt, I highlight the following:

- when supervising a disturbance or an excavation for a complex assessment, an appropriately qualified archaeologist must be physically present; and
- a cultural heritage management plan that has not been prepared according to the Standards cannot be approved.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has made guidelines specifying 'appropriate qualifications for heritage advisors' (Guidelines). These Guidelines outline that, to be 'appropriately qualified in archaeology', a person must have a degree in archaeology, involving studies in Australian archaeology, to at least an Honours level, or full membership of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated.

Any enquiries about this matter should be directed to Mark Eccleston, Manager Heritage Operations, Aboriginal Victoria on ph. (03) 8392 5353.

Yours sincerely

Harry Webber
Director Heritage Services
Aboriginal Victoria

20/12/2018