

Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium

Public Hearing Technical Note

Technical Note Number	15
Subject	Aboriginal Community Consultation and Engagement
Date	14 July 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 During the Hearings, the Panel heard representations from members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. The Panel Chair invited the Proponent to provide information on its engagement with community in relation to the development of the Macquarie Point site.
- 1.2 This Technical Note 15 provides information on the Macquarie Point Development Corporation's (**the Corporation**) engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal community and investigations to build an understanding of the site's cultural landscape and history, consult with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and ongoing work to support interpretation and culturally informed development.

2. Investigations and building an understanding of the site

- 2.1 After the Corporation was established in 2012, work began to build a greater understanding of the site. A key part of this was identifying the original shoreline and the original path of the Hobart rivulet.
- 2.2 As shown in Figure 1 below, the Hobart rivulet used to flow in an area similar to the path of Evans Street. As a place where fresh and salt water met, near shallow mud flats, the area was a fertile gathering and living place for the original custodians, the muwinina people, prior to European settlement and the land becoming reclaimed.



Figure O-5: Historic shorelines of Macquarie Point (Source: Mac Point Precinct Plan)

Figure 1 – Original shoreline – as shown on page 15 of the Project of State Significance (PoSS) Summary Report

- 2.3 The Corporation has undertaken three stages of archaeological digs as part of investigations on site to prepare for redevelopment.
- 2.4 Since 2014, the Corporation has been investigating the archaeological sensitivity of the site through a range of test excavations and monitoring works. The most extensive works were carried out in 2021. These excavations identified both significant Aboriginal and European archaeology at the western end of the site. The scale of these works allowed for a detailed and refined assessment of the subsurface archaeological sensitivity of the place to be graphically presented.
- 2.5 It was determined that further investigation was required, including to support the removal of a High Voltage electricity cable that ran through a section of the original land. This work has subsequently been completed.
- 2.6 Permits under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and *Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997* were obtained to carry out the required excavation works. The Aboriginal heritage permits only allowed excavation of heritage material within a secondary or disturbed context, as has been found to date at the site. No application was made to disturb Aboriginal heritage material which is *in situ*, or in its primary context (should it exist at the site), and which is of particularly high heritage significance. Impacts to *in situ* material should be avoided wherever possible.
- 2.7 The findings were carefully documented and were overseen by Aboriginal Heritage Officers. The most significant excavation led to a significant finding of first contact artefacts. These expertly crafted tools were made from glass that was not present in Hobart until after the time of the significant killing of Aboriginal people at piyura kitina (Risdon Cove) in 1804. It confirms that the muwinina people were still in nipaluna (Hobart) and specifically at Macquarie Point after that time. There have been limited instances of first contact glass artefacts being documents in the state.
- 2.8 This process of gathering information has been shared with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, including:
- (a) Through the Aboriginal Heritage Council, including seeking approval for the glass artefacts to leave the state to be examined in Adelaide, accompanied by a Tasmanian Aboriginal person, and sharing the important findings of that work, which confirmed these items were first contact artefacts.
 - (b) A publication in the Koori Mail on 22 September 2021, page 8, which featured palawa man and Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Caleb Pedder, and included a photo of Mr Pedder holding a tool crafted from a European bottle base, found on site.¹
 - (c) As part of the consultation with Aboriginal organisations in 2024, maps showing the original shoreline, a copy of the Koori Mail article, findings from the investigations to date, and a copy of the Statement of Country referenced below is 2.9(a) were included. As noted below in paragraph 5, this consultation was undertaken by Tasmanian Aboriginal people with Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations.
- 2.9 The story of the original land and its people is being shared with the broader community through interpretation on site including:
- (a) A Statement of Country which was prepared by palawa woman Theresa Sainty (words) and palawa man Allan Mansell (artwork – *As it was*) which speaks to the first people, the site as it was, how it was used and its ongoing significance. The Statement of Country is displayed on site in both publicly accessible areas – Red Square and Yard 16, and on the Corporation's [website](#).
 - (b) An immerse art installation was launched earlier this year. It features the artwork of palawa woman Takira Simon-Brown, who was identified through an Expression of Interest

¹ Permission was sought from the Koori Mail and a fee paid to reproduce the article as part of a package of information for consultation with Tasmania Aboriginal people and organisations. A copy of the article can be provided for the Panel's information, however, approval to reproduce for a broader use will need to be sought for the article to be published on the TPC's website to ensure appropriate credit and fees are paid to the Koori Mail.

process and selected by a panel comprising of palawa and people experienced in supporting art programs.

- (i) The immerse art container is at Yard 16 in the south-west of the site and information is published on the Corporation's [website](#).
 - (ii) The inside of the container features an immersive experience where visitors can hear Theresa Sainty speaking in palawa kani to the sounds of the shore and fire, with a QR code linking to a supporting video with an English interpretation alongside the site as it was. A braille and English interpretation board is also printed on the northern end of the container in-situ.
 - (iii) The art installation was officially launched on 16 April 2025, with guests invited by the artists Takira Simon-Brown and Theresa Sainty, both artists spoke at the event.
- (c) Going forward the original shoreline will be highlighted in the landscape through pebble pavers in the northern section where the landscape scope intersects with the original shoreline. The internal design of the stadium will capture the shoreline along the concourse through a coloured line, and in the seating bowl through a change in colour, with interpretation material to support. This will be set out in the Principal's Project Requirements (PPR) as part of the construction procurement process.

3. Responding to the project guidelines and requests for information

3.1 The information presented in relation to Aboriginal heritage in the Project of State Significance application was guided by:

- (a) the guidelines the Tasmanian Planning Commission prepared for the project; and
- (b) the Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania Standards and Procedures², which define the Principles of Aboriginal consultation.

3.2 The procedures require consultation to occur on each separate assessment undertaken:

Consultation with the Aboriginal community (or a genuine attempt) should be undertaken for all Aboriginal heritage assessments, in line with national best practice standards. See for example useful guidance in the AIATSIS Engagement Policy Snapshot. A level of consultation proportionate to the significance and impact of a proposed project is essential for successful outcomes, particularly if a proponent cannot avoid potential impact to Aboriginal heritage.

3.3 As a result, it is important that in addition to coordinated engagement compiling all the information available and opportunities for input, including the consultation noted below at paragraph 5, that Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations are also notified of individual permit requests and findings of that work, as set out in the above referenced procedures.

3.4 In response to the Panel's request for further information and clarifications, in November 2024, the Proponent provided a letter on 31 January 2025 outlining engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that had informed the PoSS submission, interpretation on site and cultural awareness. A copy of that letter³ is provided at **Attachment 1**.

4. Procurement of Aboriginal advice

4.1 Seeking advice from Tasmanian Aboriginal people has been important for the Corporation to grow its understanding of the site and its history, to procure and development interpretation material and to plan for permanent development of the site. These include:

- (a) Interpretation material and art.

² <https://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/assessment-process/aboriginal-heritage-standards-and-procedures#:~:text=Aboriginal%20Heritage%20Standards%20and%20Procedures%20assist%20proponents%20to,is%20required%20under%20the%20Aboriginal%20Heritage%20Act%201975>.

³ https://www.planning.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/798715/Annexure-M-Macquaire-Point-Development-Corporation-Aboriginal-community-consultation-31-January-2025.PDF

- (b) Providing advice and input on the developments and planning documents.
 - (c) Investigations and activity on site.
- 4.2 It is important that this work involves both consultation and paid appointments and commissions to reflect the time, expertise and value of these inputs.
- 4.3 The contracting and appointment of Tasmanian Aboriginal people as part of procurement activities remains a business-as-usual activity. This is not inferred to be in lieu of, or to represent, consultation.
- 5. Consultation**
- 5.1 In 2024, the Corporation engaged Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA) to coordinate, conduct and report on consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community regarding the proposed Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone and the Multipurpose Stadium.
- 5.2 A project team was established with a broad range of skills and experience, led by Senior Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officers with strong ties to community and with a balance of genders and coverage through the State. Aboriginal team members included: Vernon Graham (Senior Aboriginal Heritage Consultant), Rocky Sainty (Senior Aboriginal Heritage Consultant), and Zoe Rimmer (pakana community member, academic and heritage management expert). Consultation took place between mid-June to early August 2024.
- 5.3 The consultation was carried out in two phases. Firstly, a project information flyer was distributed via email to Aboriginal organisations and individuals across Tasmania, along with a project overview prepared by the Corporation. The flyer was followed up with telephone calls to the organisations, with a view to arranging face-to-face meetings with the community members.
- 5.4 The second phase was community consultation meetings with individuals and Aboriginal organisations. Ten meetings took place and they were conducted from 12 July to 8 August 2024. Team members with strong ties to specific regions or organisations led the consultation with those groups.
- 5.5 Notes were taken at all meetings by a dedicated scribe, except where impossible or not acceptable. Draft notes were then provided back to the individual or organisation for review and correction.
- 5.6 The resulting report has been submitted to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. The report will be provided to the organisations and individuals who participated and the Aboriginal Heritage Council. The feedback received is informing the planning for the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone, which is part of the Mac Point Precinct Plan and will be developed as part of stage 2 of the precinct.
- 5.7 A copy of the report was provided as part of the PoSS submission and a summary is referenced in the letter provided to the Panel dated 31 January 2025 at **Attachment 1**.
- 5.8 In addition to sharing what had been learned about the site and seeking input on the opportunities presented by the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone and stadium, the consultation also noted that the Mac Point Precinct Plan also sets out that a housing development is proposed at Regatta Point. This development footprint has been constrained to avoid an area in the north-east of that zone as investigations found evidence of Aboriginal heritage. Accordingly, it has been identified as an area of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity which will be avoided.
- 6. Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone**
- 6.1 The Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone is a critical part of Mac Point Precinct. As the Mac Point Precinct Plan⁴ sets out, an Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone will be a public space informed by Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- 6.2 This zone is not part of the project that planning approval is being sought for through the Project of State Significance. Information is being provided to the Commission on this to provide context on the surroundings of the stadium and engagement with the Aboriginal community more broadly.

⁴ https://www.macpoint.com/_files/ugd/f3f8f0_131f2f64f09f46b7bb87138d95486e98.pdf

- 6.3 Importantly the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone sits on the west of the site, where the original shoreline sat. This was home to the muwinina people for thousands of years. This makes this area important to protect and manage sensitively to protect the cultural heritage that is likely to lay in the ground below. Much of the remainder of the site is reclaimed land as noted above and illustrated in Figure 1.
- 6.4 Due to its location at the front of the site the zone will be the area that locals and visitors are most likely to see and experience. The area has been chosen also for its openness, size, natural light and physical connection to the Cenotaph and green heart of the city, Queens Domain.
- 6.5 Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone is approximately 8,000m².
- 6.6 Regarding the development of the zone, the Corporation's early conversations with some Tasmanian Aboriginal people highlighted the importance of a fresh round of engagement with the community to inform the design of a dedicated space on site. This includes on consultation on what it should be called and what it should include.
- 6.7 Consultation was undertaken last year and included sharing what we have learnt about the site from studying the history and from site investigations seeking guidance on what the space should be called, and what the purpose should be. As well as exploring what opportunities might it present for Aboriginal enterprises to be based on site and for education and storytelling.
- 6.8 Feedback highlighted a range of concepts for the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone which can be explored as planning continues. This included a focus on topics including truth-telling, recognition and survival; inclusivity of all Tasmanian Aboriginal groups; ensuring authentic content, artwork and crafts created by Tasmanian Aborigines; opportunities for a Cultural Centre; business and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people; and the use of language.
- 6.9 It should be noted that the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone is not intended to, and is acknowledged to not, fulfil the same aims as previous plans for a Truth and Reconciliation Park as proposed on the Macquarie Point site. This was specifically noted in the consultation with community. Similarly, the government's work to engage with and support the Aboriginal community covers a range of programs and sites and is not limited to the opportunity the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone presents.

Attachment 1: Letter from Anne Beach (CEO, Macquarie Point Development Corporation) to John Ramsay (Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission regarding Aboriginal Community Consultation dated 31 January 2025



Mr John Ramsay
Executive Commissioner
Tasmanian Planning Commission
GPO Box 1691
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Mr Ramsay

Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium - Project of State Significance Request for Further Information – Aboriginal Community Consultation

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 November 2024 and the request for further information and analysis of the project on Aboriginal cultural values and landscape, and evidence on consultation with the Aboriginal community.

I refer you to three reports.

The first is the report *Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Project of State Significance – Pre-Stadium Cultural and Landscape Values Assessment (AHA690)* prepared by Southern Archaeology, Colin Hughes, Caleb Pedder and Sarah Wilcox (dated: 28 August 2024). This report was commissioned to address section 5.1 of the Project of State Significance (PoSS) Guidelines. It was provided as part of our submission at Appendix HH to the Summary Report.

The report identifies Macquarie Point as a significant cultural landscape. The report acknowledges that additional time was required to meaningfully engage with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community (p.19). Consultation may include email distribution of the report (or extracts), phone conversations or meetings with members of the Aboriginal community. As a result, the Corporation has requested that this consultation with the Aboriginal community be ongoing, and the report remains at a draft stage.

The report authors have distributed the executive summary of the draft report to the following groups for comment: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation, weetaipoona, Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation, South East Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation, Karadi, Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association and Aboriginal Elders Council of Tasmania.

The Corporation will provide the Commission with a final copy of this report once the consultation has been completed and the report amended to document results of the consultation.

The second report I refer you to is *Draft Proposed Multi-Use Stadium at Macquarie Point, lutruwita (Tasmania) Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report (AHAR)* (30 January 2025) and prepared by Southern Archaeology, Colin Hughes and Caleb Pedder. A copy is attached.

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This report was commissioned to address section 5.2 of the PoSS Guidelines. I have included the draft report as an attachment to this letter. Note that maps showing the location of Aboriginal heritage should be redacted from publicly accessible versions of this report for confidentiality reasons.

The report identifies areas of archaeological sensitivity and where archaeological monitoring should take place during ground disturbance works, and having unanticipated discovery protocols in place for disturbances in other areas.

The report authors have distributed the executive summary of the draft report to the following groups for comment: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation, weetaapoonna, Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation, South East Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation, Karadi, Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association, and Aboriginal Elders Council of Tasmania. No comments were received from groups consulted.

The report is currently in a draft stage and has been submitted to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (DNRET) for review. The Corporation will provide the Commission with a final copy of this report once it has been completed.

The third report I refer you to is *Macquarie Point Development Corporation – Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Engagement – Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone and Stadium* prepared by CHMA working in conjunction with Vernon Graham, Rocky Sainty, Zoe Rimmer and Vivienne Courto (August 2024). A copy is attached.

This report was commissioned to commence discussions with the Aboriginal community regarding the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone and the proposed Stadium and provide opportunities for community engagement.

Groups and individuals consulted with in the preparation of this report were Karadi Aboriginal Corporation; melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC); Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association (CBIAA); [REDACTED], Chair, Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI); [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Elders of Flinders Island; [REDACTED], Elder of Flinders Island; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Flinders Island Aboriginal community members; Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation; maikutena [REDACTED], Elder of Flinders Island and [REDACTED], Elder of the North West Coast; Elders Council of Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation; Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC); [REDACTED], Elder of Circular Head and the North West Coast.

The consultation provided detailed and constructive advice from the Aboriginal community which we will provide to design consultants so that this feedback can be reflected in the design of the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone and the Stadium.

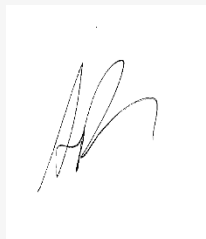
No responses were received from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre; Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania; and Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation. I will continue to liaise directly with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and have a meeting scheduled with a representative from ALCT. I will also offer to meet with Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation. As community consultation results are obtained and the reports are updated and finalised, I will provide the Commission with the most recent information. Please note that all personal information referenced in these reports must be redacted before being published online.

In addition to this formal consultation, the Corporation has also benefited from undertaking Cultural Awareness training with Mina Nina, working with palawa man Dean Greeno to culturally inform the design of the multipurpose stadium concept design, and commissioning Theresa Sainty to prepare a Statement of Country for the site – which is accompanied by art work 'As it was' by palawa man Alan Mansell, has prepared oral language artwork for the site, and along with fellow palawa woman Zoe Rimmer prepared advice on cultural centres. The Corporation has also commissioned artwork by palawa artist [REDACTED], which will be formally launched shortly.

The investigations and engagement undertaken have helped build our knowledge of the use and significance of the place by the muwinina people. The Corporation remains committed to remaining cognisant of identified

or emerging matters of Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of future management and development, and engaging in meaningful consultations. Should you require further information regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A square box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized, appearing to be 'AB' followed by a flourish.

Anne Beach
Chief Executive Officer

31 January 2025

Reports enclosed