**Natural and unauthorised impact assessment**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

The purpose of this form is to record the condition of Aboriginal cultural heritage that has been impacted by the occurrence of natural events such as wildfires and floods. It can also be used to record accidental or unauthorised impacts.

Condition reporting includes:

* identifying whether Aboriginal cultural heritage has been lost or harmed, to what degree it has been harmed and whether it is still at immediate, short or long-term risk, and
* identifying immediate, short and long-term actions that can be taken to protect and manage the Aboriginal cultural heritage recorded during these surveys.

The information collected will inform how Heritage NSW and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, can manage Aboriginal cultural heritage (within the survey areas) after the occurrence of natural events.

This form only allows for identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage that is currently recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System database (AHIMS). Impacts to new sites (not recorded in AHIMS) must be recorded using the standard Aboriginal site recording form.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AHIMS Site ID:** | **Date of assessment:** |
| **Site Name:** |  |
| **GPS Location** | **Assessor Information** |
| Easting: | Name: |
| Northing: | Organisation:  |
| Zone: | Address: |
| Horizontal Accuracy (m): | Phone: |
| Projection: | Email: |
| **Technology used for the assessment: i.e. drone or on ground survey, photos:** |
|  |
| **Site contents information** |
| **1. Feature**: | Number of Features: | Extent length (m) | Extent width (m): |
| Feature Description: |
| Modified Trees Only |
| Scar depth (cm): | Regrowth (cm): | Scar length (cm): | Scar width (cm): |
| Scar shape: | Tree species: |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **2. Feature**: | Number of features: | Extent length (m) | Extent width (m): |
| Feature Description: |
| Modified Trees Only |
| Scar Depth (cm): | Regrowth (cm): | Scar length (cm): | Scar width (cm): |
| Scar Shape: | Tree species: |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **3. Feature**: | Number of features: | Extent length (m) | Extent width (m): |
| Feature description: |
| Modified Trees Only |
| Scar Depth (cm): | Regrowth (cm): | Scar length (cm): | Scar width (cm): |
| Scar Shape: | Tree species: |  |  |
| **Event Impact**  |
| Fire [ ]  Flood [ ]  Other: | Approximate event date: |
| Event description: |
|  |  |
| **Site status following event** |
| [ ]  Valid site (Investigations confirmed this is an Aboriginal site with no damage)[ ]  Partially destroyed (The site was partially destroyed following the event; a portion of the site remains in situ)[ ]  Destroyed (The site was completely destroyed following the event)[ ]  Not a site (Investigations concluded that this is not a site) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Impact on cultural heritage values** | **Impact on features** |
| What cultural heritage values have been lost? | What features, materials, telling of stories, values to the area could and should be recoverable? (i.e. rock shelter that has had parts of the shelter fall off and whether this should remain in situ?) |
| What cultural heritage values have been impacted? |
| What cultural heritage values are intact? |
|  |  |
| **Hazards Present** | **Type of damage** |
| Environmental hazards present (e.g. unstable trees overhanging structure/site; gas bottles/ chemicals/other fuel present) | Disturbance from large quantities of water being dumped on site or mechanical methods used to create fire breaks? |
| Fire retardant present? | Smoke damage, water damage, fire damage? |
| Exposure / vulnerability to other potential environmental hazards (e.g. rain, wind, fire, dust, UV – as relevant to heritage item)  | Have areas of the Aboriginal objects or place been exposed?  |
| Exposure to human behaviour (is the site secure from vandalism, theft or harm) | Has exposure of parts of the area increased threats? |
| Access issues (can the area be accessed)? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Site Map** Show structures/elements that are damaged and hazards present. Annotate as necessary to make situation clear.  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Photographs**  |
| Description: | Description: |
| Description: | Description: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Emergency / priority needs** |
| Security / safety measures required? | Does the Aboriginal community want to repair/restore/reconstruct heritage? |
| Are erosion issues evident or possible?Are Stabilisation of area required? i.e. stabilise erosion? | Should salvage excavations, test excavations or community collections, relocation of materials be conducted? |
| Measures required to protect place from further fire or flood damage? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Post-emergency planning for recovery** |
| Should the place be documented more fully given the condition and how (e.g. oral history, further survey, photos)? | Undertake more detailed damage assessment– Requires specialist heritage input (e.g. rock art conservator, geomorphologist, ecologist?) |
| What types of conservation works are needed? Will they involve significant disturbance to the site, or will they be minor with no or limited disturbance to the site?  **Note:** Consider whether an AHIP will be necessary or if conservation works can be undertaken under relevant exemptions (s87A of NPW Act) |
| **Ongoing Management** |
| What would be your management recommendations for the ongoing management after the conservation works? (i.e. instituting a monitoring and evaluation plan for the area, education opportunities and cultural practices) |
| **Consultation** |
| Please detail the consultation that has been undertaken with relevant local Aboriginal people for this impact assessment |

Published by Department of Planning and Environment | Locked Bag 5022 | Parramatta NSW 2124 | Phone: 02 9873 8500 | Email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au | Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) | EHG 2022/0812 August 2022