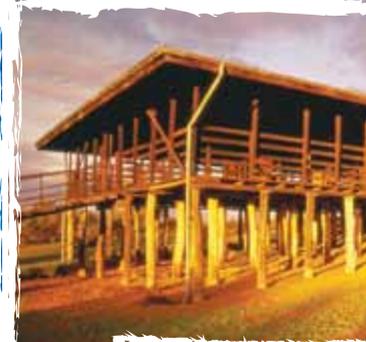




Environment,
Climate Change
& Water



Cultural Heritage Research Prospectus



cultural heritage

Cultural heritage

All landscapes contain the imprint of human use. Cultural heritage comprises the **material traces** of history and the **values** that individuals and communities ascribe to places.

NSW is rich in cultural heritage. Aboriginal heritage, from the distant to the more recent, remembered past, is found throughout the state as is the cultural heritage of settler Australians from various ethnic backgrounds. NSW has cultural heritage 'properties' on the World Heritage List, such as the Willandra Lakes Region and the Sydney Opera House. The 'Australian Convict Sites' nomination for World Heritage status includes the Great North Road complex, the first Government House site and Hyde Park Barracks. Places on the Australian National Heritage List include Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps (Baime's Ngunnhu), the Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial Site, Kurnell Peninsula Headland, Old Great North Road and Royal National Park.

NSW Governments have long been concerned with the preservation of the state's cultural heritage. Even before Royal National Park, Australia's first national park, was declared in 1879, the Sydney Botanic Gardens (1816) and the karst environments at Wombeyan (1865) and Jenolan (1866) were reserved for recreational purposes.

There are more than 20,000 heritage items on statutory lists, including over 1,500 items on the *NSW State Heritage Register*. Over 64,000 Aboriginal heritage items across NSW and over 11,000 historic heritage items in NSW national parks and reserves are listed on Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) databases.

DECCW manages Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places across NSW and manages Aboriginal, settler Australian and natural heritage in over 800 reserves that comprise the NSW park system which covers more than 8% of the state.

DECCW documents and assesses the scientific, historical and community values of heritage objects, places and landscapes, to present informed advice to the public and to apply good heritage conservation practice.

DECCW needs an accurate, credible, up-to-date and well researched knowledge base to make informed decisions about conserving, managing and interpreting cultural heritage. This **research prospectus** explains the types of research DECCW is interested in in the culture and heritage fields, ways in which DECCW is able to work collaboratively with, or support, individuals or groups wanting to undertake cultural heritage research, and who to contact for more information.

DECCW's culture and heritage research

DECCW undertakes and commissions research in the natural and social sciences to ensure it has a knowledge base for environmental policy, protection and regulation. Research areas include cultural heritage, air quality, climate and adaptation, biodiversity, park management, and water and wetlands.

Cultural heritage research provides a better understanding of how people relate to and value heritage places and landscapes, provides baseline data to assist with implementation and monitoring of conservation programs, and provides knowledge of the history of human presence in the landscapes of NSW.

DECCW's cultural heritage research strategy is contained in a regularly revised *Cultural Heritage Research Agenda* (for current version, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/CHResearchAgendaFinal.pdf). The research strategy responds to evolving government priorities, DECCW's corporate plan, and research needs expressed by DECCW staff and external stakeholders.

Past research has included:

- Undertaking historical studies at Towarri National Park (visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/RememberingCountry.htm) and Yuraygir National Park (visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chpublications/yuraygirhistpeople.htm) which examine people's attachment to landscapes and promote consideration of community heritage as integral to park management
- developing a spatial approach to Aboriginal post-1788 heritage on the NSW mid-north coast (visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/MappingAttachment.htm)
- modelling a shared heritage approach to Aboriginal and non-indigenous involvement in the NSW pastoral industry (visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/SharedLandscapes.htm)
- studying the perception and use by migrant communities of national park landscapes on Georges River in Sydney's south-west (visit www.georgesriverparks.org.au/)
- reviewing the implications of climate change for Aboriginal culture and heritage in NSW (visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeAboriginalPeopleCountry.htm).

DECCW values your expertise

DECCW recognises a considerable amount of research is carried out by universities, community groups and individuals in the field of cultural heritage, and that this research can greatly enhance DECCW research. DECCW also recognises the potential that exists for collaborative research.





Research summary

To help provide external researchers with an appreciation of ways in which their present or planned research may link with or contribute to DECCW's cultural heritage interests, the following summary of current research themes is provided.

Cultural landscapes

Research that documents and analyses data on tangible and intangible cultural heritage and helps DECCW to manage the history and heritage of landscapes. DECCW encourages research with outcomes that guide land managers in conserving community heritage.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeCulturalLandscapes.htm

Aboriginal people and Country

Research that focuses on Aboriginal heritage in NSW after 1788 and that explores ways in which the government can support Aboriginal groups in managing their heritage. DECCW also encourages research that facilitates Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeAboriginalPeopleCountry.htm

Recent migrants and parks

Research that explores the relationship between ethnicity and park use, and contributes to the development of a multicultural approach to park management. DECCW also encourages research that supports the operational management of parks.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeMigrantsAndParks.htm

Women's heritage

Research that explores Aboriginal women's heritage in NSW, and the role of women in the land-use history of landscapes in the NSW protected area system where this role has previously been under-acknowledged, for example, in pastoralism and fishing.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeWomensHeritage.htm

Conservation tools and techniques

Research that provides new or enhanced ways of assessing, conserving and managing cultural heritage places and landscapes.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeConservationToolsAndTechniques.htm

Conservation history

Research that investigates the historical development of conservation and management of Aboriginal heritage statewide, and of settler Australian heritage in national parks and reserves.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemesCorporateHistory.htm

Heritage management

Research that assists in identifying, assessing and managing the cultural and heritage values of significant places through development of conservation plans, regional studies and Aboriginal Place investigations, and by maintaining heritage registers.

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ResearchThemeHeritageManagement.htm

More information on DECCW's cultural heritage research is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/

Ways in which DECCW can help

Collaborative research and partnerships

DECCW is interested in establishing strategic research alliances with organisations including universities, Aboriginal and non-indigenous community organisations, research centres and scientific institutions. Such alliances will enable DECCW and its partner organisations to share knowledge, build on existing expertise and information and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. It will also help DECCW to establish a comprehensive network of professionals that can support its culture and heritage research program.

DECCW also highly values research carried out by students and volunteers using their own resources and encourages collaboration on such projects.

Technical and in-kind support

DECCW may be able to support proposals by supplying:

- verbal or written technical advice and access to research materials
- information on proposed study sites and access requirements
- assistance in drafting research proposals and in preparing applications for approvals (see 'Obtaining approvals' below)
- assistance in preparing grant applications or collaborative research proposals involving DECCW and other agencies
- various in-kind support, such as allocation of officer time and the loan of equipment.

Obtaining approvals

Culture and heritage research may involve projects that:

- collect oral testimony or personal information
- collect, excavate or study protected Aboriginal objects or historic heritage relics
- damage protected plants, animals or the habitat of threatened species or affect a karst environment.

Research that involves any of these activities will require approvals. These include permits, scientific licences and ethics clearances. DECCW can provide advice on the approval requirements for culture and heritage research projects.



cultural
heritage



Need more information?

To discuss collaborative research, for help in developing a research proposal or for advice regarding approvals related to research proposals, please contact DECCW's Research Section, Culture and Heritage Division, on (02) 9585 6571.

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Cover: *Main photo: Aboriginal boy jumping into Manning River, Taree – D. Byrne, DECCW; other photos top to bottom: DECCW staff workshop, Glenn Innes – D. Lucas, DECCW; Kinchega Woolshed, Kinchega National Park – M. Cufer, DECCW; aerial photograph – Department of Lands.*

Page 2: *Echo Point, Blue Mountains around 1920 – C. Barrett, Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.*

Page 3: *Willandra Lakes National Park – Shutterstock*

Page 4: *Top left: aerial photograph and recording equipment – D. Byrne, DECCW; top right: interview with past landowners, Culgoa National Park – A. McLean, DECCW.*

Page 5: *Royal National Park – Shutterstock*

Page 6: *Top: Cowan Creek 1941 – DECCW; bottom: Arrawarra Headland, Solitary Islands Marine Park – C. Ford, DECCW.*