

Consultation Notice

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)

Younghusband Peninsula Research Project

Project information

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Minister), who is responsible for the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)* (Act), has received an application for authorisations under sections 21, 23 and 29(1)(b) of the Act from Professor Patrick Hesp of Flinders University (Applicant). While Professor Hesp is the primary applicant, eight other academics and researchers are listed as co-applicants on the application.

The Applicant proposes to undertake geomorphological (landform) and archaeological investigations on the Younghusband Peninsula, which would include excavations and the collection of geomorphological and archaeological samples (Research Project).

The investigations for the Research Project would be undertaken in six proposed research zones (Application Areas) that fall within, or partially within, the Coorong National Park, approximately 130 km southeast of Adelaide (see map overleaf).

The Research Project would be undertaken collaboratively between Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (NAC) and Flinders University.

The Research Project, if authorised, would commence as early as October 2023 and continue through to 2025.

Further details

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation's (AAR's) central archives contain records for 32 Aboriginal heritage sites within three of the six Application Areas. The Applicant advises that further Aboriginal heritage exists within each of the six Application Areas.

If authorised under the Act, the Research Project would involve:

- geomorphological investigations, including the use of a drill rig (Geoprobe brand) to collect sub-surface samples
- archaeological investigations, including the identification, recording, excavation and collection of samples from archaeological sites
- destructive and non-destructive dating of these samples, and their removal from the state where required.

The Applicant advises that the Research Project does not intend to interfere with Aboriginal remains.

Purpose of consultation

The Applicant has sought authorisations under sections 21, 23 and 29(1)(b) of the Act.

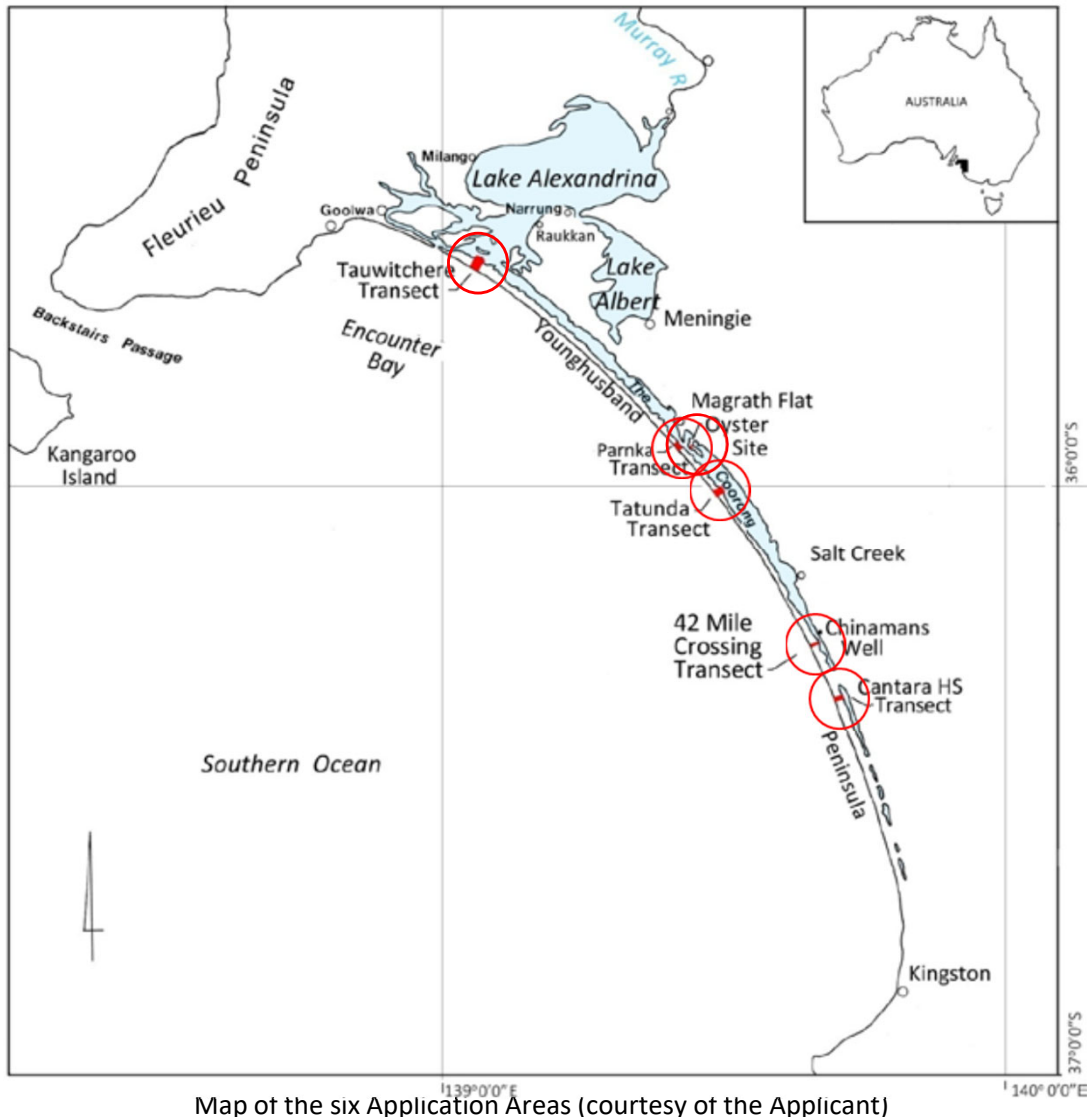
If granted, the authorisations will allow the Applicant to excavate, recover, damage, disturb and/or interfere with Aboriginal sites, objects and/or remains (Aboriginal heritage), and to remove Aboriginal objects from the state.

Before considering whether to give an authorisation, the Minister must consult with Traditional Owners, interested Aboriginal parties, and the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee.

Please share this information with other Traditional Owners and interested Aboriginal parties.

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Map of the six Application Areas (courtesy of the Applicant)

Getting involved

If you are a Traditional Owner or an interested Aboriginal person or organisation, AAR wants to hear from you.

If you wish to learn more, lodge a submission and/or be notified of the Minister's decision in this matter, please contact AAR at:

Email: AAR.CIR@sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8429 9408
Contact: Ms Tess Mitsoulis
Senior Project Officer
AGD-AAR
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Questions to consider

1. Should the authorisations sought by the Applicant be granted? Why or why not?
2. If the authorisations are granted, what conditions (if any) should be put on them?
3. What should the Minister consider when deciding this application?

Consultation closes 5 September 2023

Further information

AAR has prepared a detailed Consultation Information Pack, which is available at www.agd.sa.gov.au/heritage-applications

If you would like to receive further information, via email or mail, please let AAR know.