

Heritage Council of Victoria

POLICY: DETERMINING SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE (UNDER 75 YEARS OLD)

Adopted: 7 February 2019 for the purposes of section 130(2) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

The *Heritage Act 2017* (the Act) requires the Heritage Council of Victoria to determine whether a site, which is less than 75 years old, warrants inclusion in the Heritage Inventory.

1. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.1. Under section 130 of the Act (Recommendation for site of archaeological value), the Executive Director may recommend to the Heritage Council that a place be approved as a site of archaeological value if, in the Executive Director's opinion, the place –
 - a. is situated in the State; and
 - b. contains an artefact, deposit or feature which is less than 75 years old; and
 - c. provides information of past activity in the State; and
 - d. requires archaeological methods to reveal information about the settlement, development or use of the place; and
 - e. is not associated only with the Aboriginal occupation of the place; and
 - f. has archaeological value.
- 1.2. Under section 130(2) of the Act the Heritage Council must determine criteria for assessing whether a place has archaeological value for the purposes of (f), above.
- 1.3. Any site determined to be a site of archaeological value must be included in the Heritage Inventory (in accordance with section 133(4) of the Act).

2. POLICY

- 2.1. For a site to be considered as having archaeological value, and be approved for inclusion in the Inventory, it must satisfy both Threshold A and Threshold B (below).
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THRESHOLDS

Threshold A (archaeology / evidence)

- The place meets the definition of *archaeological site* under the Act, other than being 75 or more years old; AND
- It meets either or both of the following:
 - it can be demonstrated that the site contains archaeological features, associated artefacts and/or deposits; and/or
 - documentary evidence and/or oral history, landscape features, visible site fabric or other information indicates a likelihood that the site contains archaeological remains; AND
- The archaeological remains are, or are likely to be, in a condition that will allow information to be obtained that will contribute to an understanding of the site.

Threshold B (place history / meaning / significance)

- The site evidences (or is likely to evidence) an association with a historical event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, movement, custom or way of life; AND
- The site history is of sufficient significance within a state, regional, local, thematic or other relevant framework.