

REASONS FOR DECISION

Work Application under Part 3.2 of the *Heritage Act 2011* (the Act)

Applicant	Dr Chris Urwin – Monash Indigenous Studies Centre
Location	Yulbarra (Vanderlin Island) and Karruwa (Little Vanderlin Island) apart of the Sir Edward Pellew Islands.
Proposed work in brief	Excavate five (5) Aboriginal archaeological places
Application submission	Applications submitted to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment 20 February 2026
Decision maker	Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

MATERIAL CONSIDERED

- Two applications to conduct archaeological excavations at five sites on Yulbarra and Karruwa within the Sir Pellew Islands.
- Advice from the Heritage Council.

THE DECISION

In accordance with Section 75 of the Act, I have decided to approve the work outlined in the applications.

The approval is valid for a period of 42 months from the date of this Notice of Decision. Work must be completed by the expiration date, or a revised application submitted.

The approval does not extend to any work beyond the work stipulated in the applications. All new works require a separate application.

In accordance with section 76 of the Act I have imposed conditions. These conditions are:

1. Work is conducted only as detailed in the applications, particularly that specified in Table One;
2. That a labelled ceramic plate or similar marker is buried where archaeological objects are recovered or returned to mark the disturbance;
3. Annual progress reports are to be submitted to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment;
4. That any outstanding reports as part of previous work approvals are submitted before new work commences; and
5. The work approval expires after 42 months from the date of the notice.

CONSIDERATIONS

Section 75 of the Act requires the decision maker to consider:

- The extent to which an application, if approved, would affect the heritage significance of the heritage place (section 75(1)(a));
- The extent to which the application if refused would affect the reasonable or economic use of the place or cause a person undue financial hardship (section 75(1)(b));
- The Heritage Council's advice (section 75(1)(c));

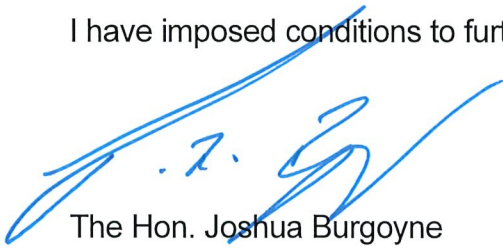
- If the heritage place or object is, or is in, a sacred site – the advice of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (section 75(1)(d)); and
- Other matters relating to conservation, use and management of the place or object the decision maker considers relevant (section 75(1)(e)).

STATEMENT OF REASONS

I considered all the matters under section 75 of the Act. This has included the advice of the Heritage Council.

The proposed work is being done for the purpose of developing knowledge that will also lead to targeted and effective long term heritage management strategies. The impact to cultural heritage is controlled within a considered research design and framework. The research is led by established experts from a major institution. The work is being conducted in close collaboration with the Yanyuwa Traditional Owners.

I have imposed conditions to further document the process and results.



The Hon. Joshua Burgoyne

Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

DATE 14 -5 -2026
