



# WESTERN SYDNEY Fact Sheet



## Aboriginal cultural heritage and Western Sydney International airport

The Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport site has Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Archaeological landscape analysis and subsurface investigations have increased our understanding of how Aboriginal people used the area before European settlement.

Ensuring Aboriginal cultural heritage is recorded and managed is an important part of the airport's development.

The *Western Sydney Airport Plan 2016* (Airport Plan) sets out requirements for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the airport site. This includes the protection of culturally important sites within the 117-hectare environmental conservation zone on the airport site.

Over 70 heritage sites have been recorded at the airport site, all of which are considered to be culturally significant by the Aboriginal stakeholders consulted through the development of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The *Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement 2016* identifies ways to preserve the Aboriginal heritage value of the site. Some sites, such as a grinding groove and a scar tree, will be preserved entirely within the environmental conservation zone in the southeast of the airport site. Where heritage cannot be preserved in place, recording and artefact salvaging will take place. Furthermore, the site's cultural heritage will be commemorated in various ways at the airport site.



## Managing cultural heritage during construction

The Airport Plan requires that Western Sydney Airport, the company responsible for building and operating the airport, develop and implement Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage CEMP outlines in detail how impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage are being managed and mitigated during the first phase of construction. This CEMP also includes how Western Sydney Airport will meet the conditions in the Airport Plan.

To date, survey and salvage investigations have been undertaken for the early earthworks. Further survey and salvage investigations will be undertaken before each phase of major earthworks commences. The outcomes of this work will help support future interpretation, education and understanding of the Aboriginal cultural values of the airport site and contribute to the archaeological record for the Cumberland Plain.

## Consultation and participation with Aboriginal stakeholders

The management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the airport site seeks direct participation of Aboriginal people in identifying, recording and respectfully managing Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development (the Department) supported early consultation and engagement on Aboriginal cultural heritage with Aboriginal stakeholders from October 2017 to August 2018. The responsibility for further and ongoing consultation and engagement is now with Western Sydney Airport.

Western Sydney Airport has partnered with Aboriginal engagement firm Enable to coordinate Aboriginal engagement across all aspects of the airport project including cultural heritage, employment, training, education, sustainability and reporting.

## Consultation on a potential keeping place

As required under the Airport Plan, the Department will lead consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, relevant government agencies and other stakeholders on a potential Aboriginal cultural heritage Keeping Place.

Consultation will seek to reflect the aspirations and ideas of Aboriginal people in Western Sydney on a culturally appropriate Keeping Place for Aboriginal artefacts from the site. This would provide a secure place for storage of artefacts found on the airport site and potentially from other development in Western Sydney. A contemporary keeping place could also enable future access for cultural purposes, and support interpretation, education or research.

