

Attachment 14

IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURAL VALUES RECOMMENDATIONS

10.10.2024



Delivered by

In 2023, The Port of Hastings Corporation (PoHC) engaged the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) to produce a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (the Terminal) Project. This document was successfully produced and provided to PoHC in November 2023. As part of this CVA, BLCAC developed six recommendations informed by research and consultation with members of the Bunurong community for the PoHC to action prior to and throughout the duration of the VRET Project.

Since receiving the CVA from BLCAC in late 2023, the PoHC have been working to action these recommendations, this document provides an update on the progress of such actions at the time of publication of this report.

Implementation Status of CVA Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Develop a proactive strategic policy document for the protection of coastal Aboriginal cultural heritage – tangible and intangible – for VRET and consult with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) in its development.

In April 2024, the PoHC commenced discussions with BLCAC regarding the development of the proactive strategic policy document. Through these discussions it was collectively determined that PoHC would develop a draft document that would be reviewed by BLCAC later in 2024. In September 2024, PoHC provided BLCAC with an initial draft, BLCAC have since reviewed and provided feedback to PoHC.

Recommendation 2: Protect and retain the specimens of Cherry Ballart on OTRA as much as possible and consult with BLCAC concerning their management.

In January 2024, BLCAC and PoHC staff visited OTRA to survey, tag and record each specimen of Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis* situated on Old Tyabb Reclamation Area and the neighbouring road reserve (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council). Following this, BLCAC provided PoHC with GPS coordinates for each specimen of Cherry Ballart, these have since been incorporated into the Terminal Project systems. It is the intention of PoHC that these trees will be preserved wherever possible. Examples of this have already occurred, with the design of a vehicle access from Long Island Drive being altered to protect a Cherry Ballart tree.

Recommendation 3: Engage BLCAC's Tarbuk Biik (Strong Country) environmental team to work on country, such as land clearing prior to heritage assessments, and when developing environmental initiatives such as offset programs.

PoHC have engaged BLCAC Tarbuk Biik (Strong Country) environmental team to work on OTRA through the tagging and recording of Cherry Ballart specimens. As of July 2024, no significant land clearing has occurred on OTRA, and therefore, Tarbuk Biik have not yet been engaged for this purpose. PoHC plan to engage Tarbuk Biik as future instances of land clearing and other environmental works.

Recommendation 4: Engage BLCAC and Bunurong artists in the development of an interpretive strategy to communicate and reflect the cultural values identified in this report.

In July 2024, PoHC and BLCAC released an advertisement to accept expressions of interests to develop an interpretive artwork that seeks to communicate and reflect the cultural values identified in the Terminal CVA. In September 2024, Vicki Thomas was selected as the artist who will produce the interpretive artwork and is currently working with PoHC to develop the artwork. This recommendation has been completed.

Recommendation 5: Consult with BLCAC to develop a place naming/language strategy to help incorporate Boonwurrung language into signage, when possible.

PoHC are in the early stages of engaging BLCAC to develop a place naming/language strategy that seeks to incorporate Boonwurrung language into signage relating to both the Terminal Project and the PoHC more broadly. PoHC have not yet completed the tasks associated with this recommendation. However, this recommendation is underway and remains in progress to be completed.

Recommendation 6: Engage BLCAC to conduct cultural awareness training for all employees and contractors working on the Terminal Project.

In July 2024, PoHC undertook cultural awareness training conducted by Jillian West. Jillian was recommended to PoHC by BLCAC as a suitable person to conduct the training, which was attended by approximately 35 people, comprising PoHC staff, key consultants working on the Terminal Project, and Department of Transport and Planning personnel. PoHC intends to conduct this training again in the future, to ensure new staff, contractors and consultants can also receive the training.