Heritage

Western Power is committed to maintaining the highest standards and practices in managing WA's main electricity network to protect and enhance environmental, heritage and social values.



Respecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in our work

We understand how important Aboriginal cultural heritage is and take careful steps to protect it when managing our network.
Our approach includes:

- identifying and understanding the cultural significance and sensitivity of heritage sites
- assessing how our work might affect these areas, including how long, how intense, and how widespread the impact could be
- considering both direct and indirect effects, even those that happen off-site
- ensuring our actions align with laws and regulations
- looking at the bigger picture, including how different impacts connect and interact
- consulting with First Nations communities to include traditional knowledge
- listening to broader community values.

We follow a clear process to reduce harm, starting with **avoiding** impacts wherever possible, then **minimising** them, and always ensuring **consultation** takes place.

Before any network construction begins, we carry out a thorough desktop review of available information to identify any heritage values that might be affected and to determine if we need regulatory approvals or special management plans.

What happens when a potential heritage risk or impact is identified?

Where there is a risk or an approval required, further investigation is undertaken including:

- consultation with stakeholders and regulators
- field inspections
- ethnographic, archaeological other relevant surveys or investigations to ensure adequate information to make informed decisions
- consultation with relevant traditional knowledge holder to determine site values
- development of controls or actions, typically detailed in a heritage management plan.

We refer projects to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) for assessment under State legislation (Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972).

DPLH decide whether to assess and recommend approval of the project, if the project does not need to be assessed it is delivered in accordance with the relevant consulted parties agreed recommended actions (e.g onsite presence of monitors during certain work activities or at certain locations of sensitivity to ensure minimal impact).

If the regulator does assess the project, it is subject to consultation provisions and comprehensive assessment. Project delivery will only begin once approved and relevant approval conditions are met.

More information

For more information on Clean Energy Link, visit **westernpower.com.au**

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