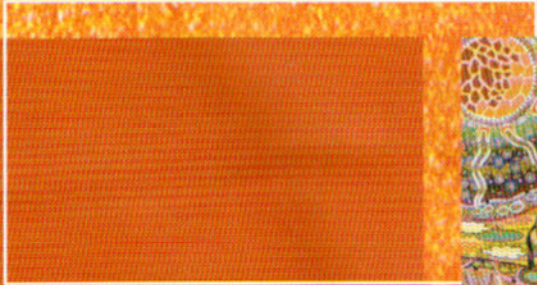




Aboriginal PLACE

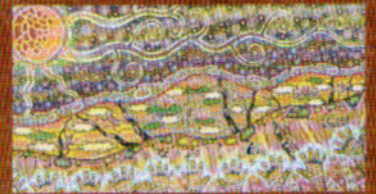
DECLARATIONS



How will ABORIGINAL PEOPLE benefit?

For Aboriginal people, declaration provides:

- legislative protection of areas that may not otherwise be protected;
 - formal acknowledgment that the declared places have significance for Aboriginal culture;
- documentation of this significance, for the benefit of current and future generations of Aboriginal people; and
 - opportunities to develop working relationships with landholders.



Further information

For more information on Aboriginal Place declarations, or to obtain a nomination form, please call 1300 361 967 during office hours or write to:

The Coordinator Aboriginal Place Program,
Cultural Heritage Division,

National Parks and Wildlife Service

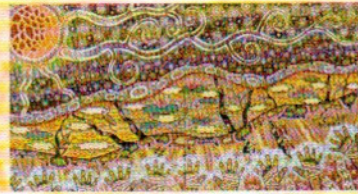
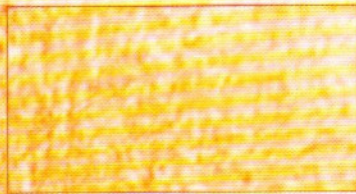
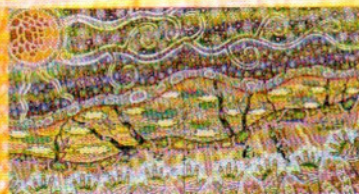
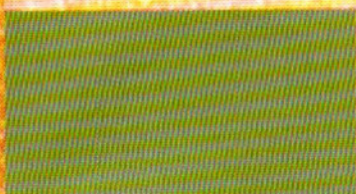
PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220

www.npws.nsw.gov.au

Aboriginal Place Declarations

Declaring an area an Aboriginal Place is a way of formally recognising the cultural attachment Aboriginal people have to land. Throughout New South Wales many landholders acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people's attachment to particular areas. Aboriginal people and landholders have worked collaboratively to protect many areas that are also important for their educational value for future generations of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NP&W Act), an Aboriginal Place may be declared on any land in New South Wales if the Minister for the Environment considers that the area is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. The declaration of an Aboriginal Place provides a formal means for the NSW Government to recognise the significance of an area to Aboriginal culture, and to help provide appropriate protection to ensure that the significance is not damaged or destroyed.



What types of areas may be DECLARED ABORIGINAL PLACES?

The only criterion for declaration is that the place is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. Such places may include:

- land containing Aboriginal burials;
- places that are identified by Aboriginal stories or celebrated by ceremony;
- land that was once an Aboriginal reserve, mission or other post-settlement living area;
- land known from archival or historical records to have been the site of an important historical event, such as a massacre;
- areas that contain one or more Aboriginal relics or a combination of cultural landscape features, including culturally important plant and animal species;
- archaeological sites where the significance to Aboriginal people requires special recognition; and
- land, buildings or places significant to Aboriginal culture after 1788.

What protection DOES DECLARATION OFFER?

Under section 90 of the NP&W Act, Aboriginal Places are afforded the same protection as 'relics'. This means that they cannot be knowingly destroyed, defaced or damaged without the consent of the Director-General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

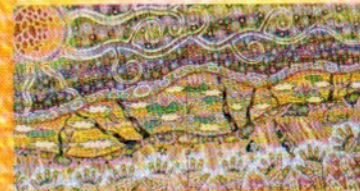
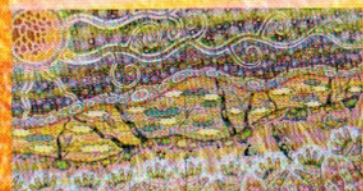
How does a DECLARATION HAPPEN?

Areas are declared Aboriginal Places by the Minister for the Environment, who may act alone or on the advice of the Director-General of the NPWS. Anyone may recommend to the NPWS or the Minister that an area be declared an Aboriginal Place. Nomination forms are available from the NPWS Head Office (see contact details below).

How can LANDHOLDERS BENEFIT?

Declaration of an area as an Aboriginal Place gives landholders:

- a way of helping to conserve the unique cultural heritage of New South Wales for future generations;
- an opportunity to contribute to the process of reconciliation;
- the chance to share knowledge of, and learn more about, their land;
- protection in perpetuity of the Aboriginal Place under section 90 of the NP&W Act;
- access to specialist advice from the NPWS on the management of the Aboriginal Place;
- access to external funding grants for conservation and protection works; and
- signage to help deter shooters and trespassers from the property.



Aboriginal PLACE DECLARATIONS



James Simon
My favourite place, 1996

