

# **The Role of Innovation in Aboriginal Heritage Management**

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Aboriginal heritage management is at a decision point where the opportunity and need for innovation is clear. Aboriginal heritage is central to decisions about much land use in SA and knowledge of sites is essential for both development and their protection. There is the need and scope for new ways of thinking and acting to develop shared futures.

AHB/AARD is implementing a Ministerially-endorsed approach which includes negotiating appropriate protocols for partnerships with Aboriginal groups and addressing the importance of and taking steps for Aboriginal management of Aboriginal heritage information in collaboration with Government. Innovations include the digitisation of site records and their use in spatial form in collaborative decision making; training Aboriginal people in conjunction with Flinders University to record and conserve sites; innovating through bringing heritage and native title closer together at the policy and practical levels; looking to the best new ideas from recent reviews of heritage legislation in other states and how they can inform different approaches in SA. While these and other innovations are commendable, there is the need and capacity for greater innovation in Aboriginal heritage management.

The paper would be framed by consideration of the role for the Capability Approach as a normative framework that is most suited to innovation in the Aboriginal arena which is essentially values-based.

The presentation would be supported by the use of visuals to illustrate the practical innovations being introduced.