

UPDATE

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

Friday 15 July 2011

DECISION TO DECLINE REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY APPLICATION FROM BUNURONG LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

At its meeting on 1 July 2011, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (the Council) decided not to register the application from Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) to be a registered Aboriginal party (RAP).

BLCAC applied to the Council to become a RAP for areas including the south-east of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, Westernport Bay and Wilsons Promontory.

The BLCAC had previously applied in July 2007 to become a RAP for an almost identical area. This area had also been the subject of a competing RAP application by the Boon Wurrung Foundation Limited (BWFL) made in June 2007.

At its meeting in August 2009, the Council declined the applications from the BWFL and the BLCAC. In making its decisions, the Council expressed its view that members of both BWFL and BLCAC are Traditional Owners of Boonwurrung country. However, Council had concluded that neither group was the appropriate body to be appointed as the sole RAP for their application area, and that it also was not appropriate to appoint two organisations over the same area in the circumstances.

In making its decision in relation to the new BLCAC RAP application, Council had regard to new information which had been provided by BLCAC in relation to its membership. Council had also requested, and been provided with, additional information from the BLCAC regarding its membership.

In making its decision, Council again expressed its view that members of the BLCAC are Traditional Owners of Boonwurrung country. However, Council was still not satisfied that the BLCAC was the appropriate organisation to represent all persons having traditional or familial links to the area, and declined the application.

A record of the Council's decisions will be published on the Council's website. Visit www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/ and follow the links to Aboriginal cultural heritage / the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council / applications declined or withdrawn.

Date of decision: 1 July 2011