

# UPDATE

## Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

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11 December 2007

### RAP DECISION - GOOLUM GOOLUM ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council has declined an application by Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd to be appointed as a registered Aboriginal party (RAP).

Goolum Goolum is a community co-operative providing services to Aboriginal people living and working in the Wimmera-Mallee region. Goolum Goolum was responsible for cultural heritage in the area for more than twenty years under the former *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

Goolum Goolum's application covers largely the same area that Barengi Gadjin Land Council has been registered as a RAP for.

Whilst recognising Goolum Goolum's considerable contribution to protecting cultural heritage in the area, Council concluded that Barengi Gadjin should now take responsibility for cultural heritage management.

Barengi Gadjin is the prescribed body corporate, holding native title on behalf of Traditional Owners in the area.

The Council wants to ensure that groups recognised as RAPs reflect native title arrangements as best as possible.

In its decision, the Council noted the substantial crossover in membership and representation between Goolum Goolum and Barengi Gadjin.

The Council hopes its decision will form the basis for Traditional Owners in the area to work together to manage and protect their cultural heritage.

**Date of decision: 6 December 2007**