

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritages— EIS information guideline

## Introduction

This guideline advises proponents about the information and assessment requirements in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritages when preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS).

## Legislation and policy

Queensland legislation recognises the separate nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritages by protecting them under separate Acts: the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (TSICH Act).

## What should be addressed in an EIS?

Unless an exemption applies under section 86 of the ACH Act or TSICH Act, a cultural heritage management plan must be prepared in accordance with Part 7 of the ACH and TSICH Acts.

## Who may undertake surveys and prepare the EIS?

A suitable Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritages consultant should be able to advise their client on how to proceed, and undertake appropriate surveys for an EIS. They should also be able to prepare the necessary reports, including the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (unless an exemption applies under section 86 of either the ACH or TSICH Acts). The Queensland [Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships](#) website provides advice about developing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

