



FAQ
NGOORAT VAHR REGISTRATION

- **Why weren't residents consulted?**

Mt Noorat artefact scatter (VAHR 7421-0188) was registered on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Registry (VAHR) on January 1996, recently the site boundary was updated, and a new place was registered (VAHR 7421-0246) to better reflect the cultural values and significance of the place. The new place was registered as part of an independent Cultural Heritage Management Plan assessment undertaken for a proposed activity in the area. Site registrations are based on archaeological assessments and the significance of the place to Aboriginal people.

- **What does the registration mean in practical terms?**

The registration means that Mount Noorat will be protected from harm and that Eastern Maar citizens will be directly involved in the decision-making process in relation to proposed changes to the mount.

- **What does the registration mean for landholders?**

The registration is unlikely to affect the daily routine of landholders, however, according to the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, harming an Aboriginal Place is an offence. If an activity may harm the Aboriginal Place, the proponent of the activity is encouraged to apply for a Cultural Heritage Permit.

- **What does the registration mean for the quarry operators?**

Eastern Maar's priority is to protect the Mount from harm. Quarry activities are the greatest threat to the cultural values of the Aboriginal Place; therefore, it is unlikely that any new quarry proposal will be accepted by EMAC.

In relation to the existing quarry, EMAC anticipates a permit application to enable the activity to continue. We hope to use the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with the quarry operators to archive the best outcome for the mount.

- **How was the site boundary defined?**

The place extent includes two stone artefact scatters and an Aboriginal Cultural Place. In relation to the Aboriginal Cultural Place registration, Ngoorat is known to have been the location of repeated meetings of Aboriginal People from as far away as Geelong and the Wimmera.

The Place Extent is the mapped eruption point of Mount Noorat. This includes maars, scoria cones, lava shields and associated ash and scoria deposits resulting from the volcanic activity. This geological deposit coincides broadly with the 170m contour and includes the scoria cone and undulating foothills at the base of the mountain. The extent of the place is mapped as 512.9ha, however the cultural value

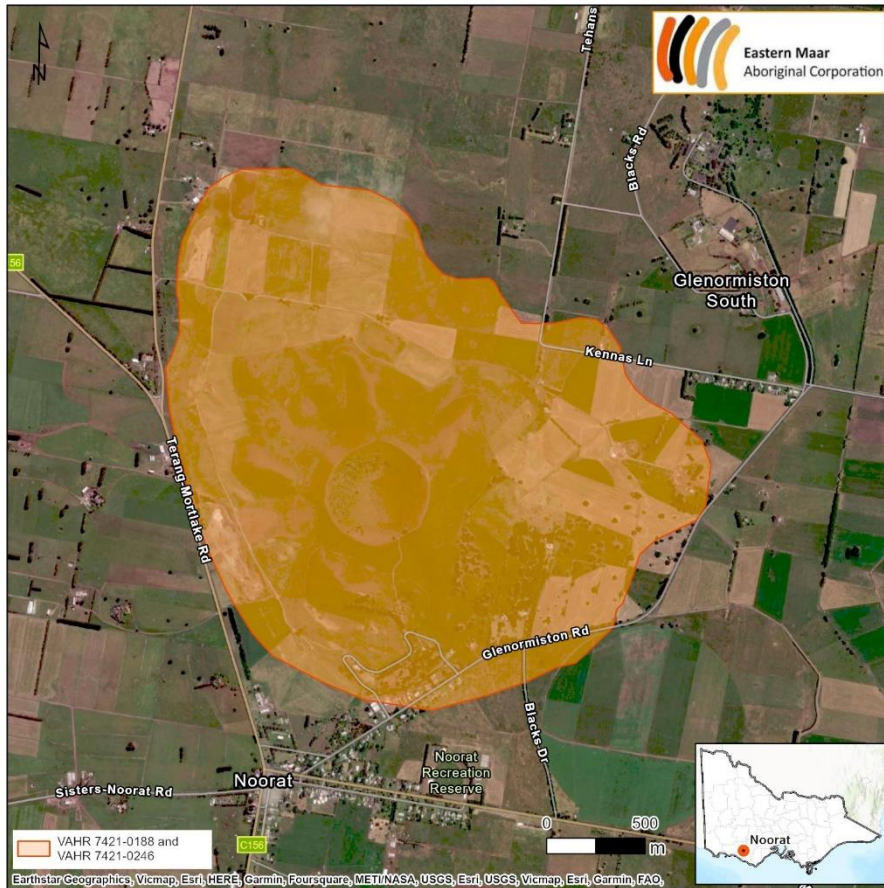


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and significance of the landscape to Traditional Owners is likely to extend beyond this extent, through oral tradition, sight lines to adjacent landscapes and connection to place.

- **What is the area of the Aboriginal Place?**

The map below shows the site boundaries of VAHR 7421-0188 and VAHR 7421-0246:



- **What types of activities may harm the Aboriginal place?**

According to the Aboriginal Heritage act, harm, in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, includes damaging, defacing, desecrating, destroying, disturbing, injuring or interfering with.



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The table below lists activities that EMAC consider may harm the Aboriginal Place, therefore EMAC expects and encourages a CHP application if the activities below are to be carried out within the site boundaries.

Township Zone, Low-density residential zone, and Farming Zone:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that require a building permit. • Removal of natural resources, including quarries. • Activities involving Significant Ground Disturbance. • Public works. • Deep Ripping. • Any activity that impacts the cultural values of the site. • Telecommunication works. • Land rehabilitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any physical intervention, excavation or action that may result in a change to the structure, appearance, or physical nature of a place. • Any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of the land. • The removal or destruction of trees. • The removal of vegetation or topsoil.

- **What activities can be carried out without the need for a Cultural Heritage Permit application?**

Section 25 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 provides that despite the existence of the Aboriginal Place or Aboriginal Object, an owner, occupier, or person is entitled to the use and enjoyment of the surface of the land to the extent that the person does not contravene section 27 (Harming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage unlawful) or section 28 (A person must not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage) of the Act. The following table lists the activities EMAC does not expect to be engaged in in relation to a CHP application.

Activities EMAC is not required to be engaged for a CHP application.

Township Zone, Low-density residential zone	Farming Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing. • Gardening. • General maintenance. • Minor infrastructure (not covered by a building permit). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing. • Gardening. • General maintenance. • Grazing. • Ploughing (up to 30 cm) • Existing track maintenance.

- **Where to find more information Cultural Heritage Permits?**



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Information about the Cultural Heritage Permit application process can be found at:

<https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/cultural-heritage-permit>

- **How to contact Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation?**

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

culturalheritage@easternmaar.com.au