

► **ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRES & SITES**

Aboriginal people have lived in Western Australia for at least 45,000 years. While many traces of their occupation have been destroyed, numerous sites remain and some of these have great tourism significance. Attractions in this category reflect the rich and diverse cultural heritage of indigenous Australians.

It is important to ensure that Aboriginal heritage centres and sites in this category are authentic and are either owned, operated or managed by Aboriginal people or communities, or provide consenting contact with Aboriginal people, culture or land.

Care needs to be exercised in striking a balance between the desires of tourists and the needs of Aboriginal communities.

►► **Cultural Centres**

Aboriginal cultural centres are purpose built and feature varied displays representative of Aboriginal culture. Cultural centres should provide the opportunity to present material and displays relating to aspects of culture such as visual and performing arts, handicrafts, cultural values, religious and spiritual ceremonies, technology, recreation and leisure, relationship to the environment, and/or economic and social structures.

►► **Cultural Sites**

If an attraction is a site of significance, there needs to be interpretation that allows visitors to understand its significance, both in specific terms and in wider, contextual terms. It is also vital that both the traditional and modern-day owners (these will in some cases be the same) endorse public access to the site.

Aboriginal sites may include sites that have:

- the remains of prehistoric and/or historical Aboriginal occupation
- historical or contemporary significance to the Aboriginal community.

► **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ROAD SIGNAGE**

The following specific criteria have been developed for the assessment of applications for road signs to Aboriginal Heritage Attractions:

An **Aboriginal Cultural Centre** must:

- Present material and displays relating to aspects of culture such as visual or performing arts, handicrafts, cultural values, religious and spiritual ceremonies, technology, recreation and leisure, relationship to the environment, and/or economic and social structures.

An **Aboriginal Heritage Site** must:

- Have interpretation that allows visitors to understand its significance, both in specific terms and in wider, contextual terms.
- Be endorsed by both the traditional and modern day owners permitting public access to the site

This criterion is additional to the established criteria for any commercial tourist attraction.

Please refer to **Tourist Attraction Sign Criteria - Aboriginal Heritage**.