

Engaging MTWAC for Consultation

Information for external organisations, agencies, consultants and researchers

Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) welcomes respectful approaches that align with community priorities and provide clear benefit to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

1. Before you contact MTWAC

- Define the purpose, including why MTWAC or Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives are sought.
- Identify the intended participants and explain why they are the appropriate people to approach.
- Describe the expected community benefit, project risks and how feedback will influence decisions.
- Provide realistic dates and allow time for internal consideration, cultural governance and community decision-making.
- Budget for all participation, preparation, cultural labour, administration, travel and follow-up.

1. Purpose and scope of the request

Your written request must state the questions or decisions to be informed, the type of engagement proposed, the people you wish to involve, and every intended use of information. This includes meetings, surveys, workshops, document review, advisory roles, research, evaluation, media, policy development, planning and activities relating to Country. Consent to participate in one activity does not authorise any other use, publication or sharing.

2. Time commitment and costs

Provide a full estimate of the commitment required, including briefings, preparation, travel, attendance, review of drafts, community validation and follow-up. MTWAC will determine whether the timing and workload are suitable. External deadlines do not override cultural processes or community availability. MTWAC does not support unpaid consultation; rates, payment arrangements and associated costs must be agreed in writing before engagement begins.

3. Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Information about Tasmanian Aboriginal people, community, culture, knowledge or Country remains subject to the knowledge holder's authority. Before collection, the parties must agree in writing who controls the data; what may be collected; where it will

be stored; who may access, analyse or receive it; permitted uses; security and breach response; retention and destruction; return of data; and whether any storage or access will occur overseas. Data must not be reused, linked, commercialised, placed in an open repository or shared with third parties without prior written approval. MTWAC must be able to review relevant interpretations and proposed outputs before release. Privacy compliance and ethics approval do not replace these requirements.

4. Academic research: outputs and cultural rights

Research proposals must identify all anticipated outputs and uses, including theses, journal articles, reports, presentations, teaching materials, datasets, recordings, photographs, media, online content and future research.

While MTWAC is keen to be involved with external consultation, early contact is encouraged, before project scope, funding, methods or deadlines are finalised to ensure we can assist.