Chapter B6 Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Summary of key findings:

A detailed assessment of Indigenous cultural heritage values within Melbourne Airport's Third Runway (M3R) study area has been completed. This assessment was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth and Victorian governments.

The assessment identified 33 previously recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage places within the study area. These consisted of stone artefact scatters, low density artefact distributions, and scarred trees. The results of the survey and test excavations (stage 1 of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan's complex assessment) have combined a large number of these existing values. There are now 14 Aboriginal places in the study area, with final Aboriginal place numbers still to be determined for some of them.

Melbourne Airport is currently preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) 16792 (Biosis Pty Ltd 2020) in consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri). Wurundjeri is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the region that includes Melbourne Airport. The CHMP will detail the findings of the assessment; and the specific heritage management requirements to be implemented to avoid, manage and mitigate impacts to heritage values. These measures are likely to include, at a minimum, cultural inductions for people working on M3R and procedures for the archaeological salvage and reburial of cultural material. The CHMP will be evaluated by Wurundjeri and follows best practice under the Victorian state heritage legislation.