



## Commonwealth Fact Sheet



### UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE 2018

*If your project accesses, interferes with or enters the protected zone around one of the thousands of protected shipwrecks, submerged aircraft or other underwater cultural heritage in Australia, you should obtain approvals in accordance with this Act.*

#### 1. What approvals do I need?

Projects that damage or interfere with an historic shipwreck or relic in Australian waters require a permit.

Projects that damage or interfere with a submerged aircraft or associated artefacts in Commonwealth waters requires a permit.

Permits are also required to carry out certain activities in a protected zone located around any shipwreck, submerged aircraft or artefact.

#### 2. Who provides approvals?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, in collaboration with the state and territory governments, regulates activity around shipwrecks and submerged aircraft in jurisdictional waters from the low water mark out to the limits of the continental shelf through the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018*.

For updates on the implementation of the new *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* visit this [website](#).

#### 3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Applications are available on the Agriculture, Water and the Environment [website](#). Further information on environmental planning advice related to historic shipwrecks is available [here](#).

#### 4. More Information

##### Commonwealth

The locations of historic shipwrecks, submerged aircraft and protected zones are available on the Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database.

For more information, visit the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [website](#) or contact  
02 6274 2116.

##### Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Phone: 02 6243 7121

Email: [contact@mpaa.gov.au](mailto:contact@mpaa.gov.au)