

# The Golden Beach Gas Project

## Cultural Heritage

The Golden Beach Gas Project (Project) involves the development of the Golden Beach Gas Field in the Gippsland Basin to provide critical gas supply and storage infrastructure that will materially benefit the Victorian energy market.

Once in operation, the Project will initially increase the domestic gas supply before transitioning to storage operations which will enhance the energy market security and efficiency while supporting Victoria's transition to renewables

### Environmental Effects Statement Process

The Minister for Planning determined that an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES process is underway and is assessing any potential environmental, social, economic and planning impacts of the Project. An EES will be prepared setting out these assessments and our approach to mitigating any impacts.

As part of the EES process, an assessment of the impact of the Project on cultural heritage has been undertaken. GB Energy has prepared this fact sheet to explain the cultural heritage assessment and welcomes any feedback. The final report will be made available for comment through the EES public exhibition process anticipated in late 2020.

### Cultural Heritage

Specialists have completed an assessment of the potential cultural heritage impacts associated with the Project. The cultural heritage assessment provides guidance on how to minimise negative impacts.

A formal standard assessment was carried out across the entire Project area which involved a pedestrian survey with members of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (**GLaWAC**) to identify any surface Aboriginal cultural heritage places. A formal complex assessment followed the standard assessment which involved manual archaeological excavations in areas of potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivities identified during the standard assessment. A total of 38 test pits and 423 shovel test pits were excavated with the participation of representatives from GLaWAC.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) is currently being drafted to manage and mitigate any proposed harm to known Aboriginal places. This CHMP will be approved by the GLaWAC as part of the EES process.

### Key findings

- The key findings of the cultural heritage risk assessment include:
- There are two previously recorded Aboriginal places in the Project study area;
  - Seven new Aboriginal places were identified during the survey – two artefact scatters and five low-density artefact distributions;
  - The greatest risk to cultural heritage arises as a result of the ground-disturbing works to be undertaken during the construction phase of the Project;
  - These impacts can be managed through the development of a CHMP which will provide the processes by which to manage and mitigate any proposed harm to known and unknown Aboriginal places.



An example of Aboriginal artefacts found as part of the cultural heritage risk assessment conducted for the Project.