



CONSULTATION POLICY
(LOANS FROM OVERSEAS FOR TEMPORARY EXHIBITION)

Updated December 2025

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Objective

This Policy applies when the Museum identifies an object located overseas that it would like to import for temporary exhibition in Australia Part 4 (Consultation) compliance with *Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Regulations 2024* (Cth).

1.2 Application

This Policy applies to any object to be borrowed from overseas for a temporary exhibition in Australia including objects with a connection to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and First Nations communities from countries other than Australia.

1.3 Procedures

Procedures to be followed in implementing this Policy are set out in the document *Consultation Procedures (Loans from Overseas for Temporary Exhibition)*.

The Procedures will comply with Part 4 (Consultation) of the *Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Regulations 2024* and will include specific consultation processes for:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities, individuals or groups;
- any other Australian individual, family group or community;
- First Nations communities from countries other than Australia; and
- objects of significance to any state or territory archives.

The Procedures will also set out the processes that will be followed when a person, organisation or body consulted does not support the proposed loan of the object.

2. KEY PRINCIPLE

2.1 Compliance with the Key Principle

The Museum is committed to only borrowing objects in accordance with its statutory charter, with its mission and its vision statements and in compliance with applicable legislation and the highest ethical standards.

When borrowing objects from overseas for temporary exhibition in Australia, the Museum will always identify whether it should consult with any individual, family group or community to which the object relates, including (but not limited to) any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or community and any traditional owner or custodian, and any First Nations communities from countries other than Australia.

The Museum will always undertake community and sector consultation and appropriate engagement where the proposed loan relates to or embodies that culture of (a) Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Pasifika community, or (b) a First Nations community that is from a country that is not Australia, or (c) a community in Australia and the object has clear and continuing significance for that community.

For any other object, the Museum will consider the following to determine whether consultation will be undertaken:

- whether the object has historical significance to a particular individual, group, event, place or activity relating to a community;
- whether a member of a community has specific family associations with the object;
- whether the object has social or spiritual significance to a particular community in Australia;
- whether there is a demonstrated attachment between the object and an individual, family group or community in Australia; and
- whether the object embodies beliefs, ideas, customs, traditions, practices or stories that are important to a particular community in Australia, or has social or spiritual significance to the community.

Where consultation is identified as necessary, the consultation process will:

- give all parties adequate time and opportunity for full and proper consultation;
- be appropriate having regard both to the object and to the individual, group or body being consulted;
- be respectful; and

- be meaningful to the persons, organisations or bodies being consulted

The Museum will consider the outcomes of any consultation before making any decision as to whether to proceed with a loan from overseas for temporary exhibition in Australia. Where a person, organisation or body consulted does not support the proposed loan, the Director & CEO will make a determination about whether to proceed with the loan in accordance with the *Consultation Procedures (Loans from Overseas for Temporary Exhibition)*.

3. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Procedures will allocate responsibility for:

- determining whether consultation will be undertaken in relation to a particular object;
- determining the appropriate consultation and engagement process;
- undertaking the consultation; and
- reviewing the outcome of the consultation and deciding on whether any further action is required (including any further consultation or any review of the proposed loan).

4. TIMING OF CONSULTATION

Any consultation required under this Policy will be completed before the loan is finalised and in sufficient time to allow for the mandatory 6-week publication period before the object is imported into Australia.

5. DOCUMENTATION & RECORD KEEPING

The Museum will document:

- its decision as to whether consultation will be undertaken; and
- any consultations following that decision.

The Museum will document both the processes and outcomes of each of the above.

Documentation must be retained to support annual reporting requirements, including details of all consultations undertaken.

Resulting records will be kept and disposed of in accordance with the Museum's *Disposal Schedule* (DR55731998) and *Australian Museum Records Management Policy* (2022).

6. AUDIT & REVIEW

Compliance with this Policy and with the Procedures made under it will be audited by the Director & CEO, or their delegated representative.

This Policy and the Procedures made under it will be reviewed no less than every five years.

7. COMPLIANCE

Failure by staff to comply with this Policy may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

8. INTERNATIONAL, LEGAL & ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS

This Policy is based on the requirements set out in Part 4 of the *Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Regulations 2024* (Cth).

9. APPROVAL

Effective Date	18 December 2025	Next Review	In 3 years
Approval	Director and CEO 		
Approval Date	17 December 2025		
Executive Policy Owner	Director, Museum Experience and Engagement		
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