

## NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

*Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).*

*This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.*

*Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.*

### **BELCONNEN CREEK GRINDING GROOVES BLOCK 183, BELCONNEN**

The Belconnen Creek grinding grooves are important evidence of Aboriginal cultural history of the ACT as they provide insight into past tradition and way of life by showing that Aboriginal people were at the site grinding material that was crucial in accessing resources from the surrounding region. They relate to the artefact grinding process, and utilisation of a limited stone resource, and are the kind of grooves that hold strong cultural association for the Aboriginal community. The production of ground-edge stone axes in the region grew in importance in the last few thousand years and marked the last major technological change in Aboriginal material culture before non-Aboriginal people's influence.

Grinding grooves were important in Aboriginal life—the main element of ground-edge stone technology. Extant evidence of such technology in the ACT is rare. It was applied to many different purposes. The grinding grooves depth and quantity suggests long-term use over many visitations. The site is located along an Aboriginal pathway from the Molonglo-Queanbeyan River's confluence, across the pre-Limestone-Plains, towards the alpine region. The site is also rare in that its grooves are particularly clear and numerous.

Belconnen Creek grinding grooves may yield more heritage values with more extensive examination of the area, and are likely contribute important information on Aboriginal grinding technologies, particularly in lowland contexts. Additionally, the topography suggests that it was an ideal location for accessing multiple resources and is above a low cliff that cascades down to Belconnen Creek and near other recorded open artefact scatters.