GELLUNG WARL

Interim Assembly Internal Governance Rules

1 Interim Assembly Internal Governance Rules, Version 1.1, approved 1 October 2026

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Lighting the Fire Stick

1 Name

The name of these rules is the Interim Assembly Internal Governance Rules.

2 Authority

(a) As First Peoples, the source of our authority is our inherent rights.

(b) The authority to make these rules derives from the Statewide Treaty, and they are made by the Assembly under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act and Schedule 1, Items 1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 4.1 and 5.1 to that Act.

3 Teachings that have Informed the Creation of these Rules

3.1 Our Identity, Our Strength, Our Wisdom

> *"We, the First Peoples of this Country now called Victoria, affirm that Aboriginal Lore and Law continue. Passed down through Ancestors and Elders, carried in language, story, ceremony and Country. Though colonisation sought to silence them, they were never ceded or extinguished. These rules are created not in isolation, but as a part of this continuing legacy – a living expression of cultural authority and the right to self-determination.*
>
> *In developing these rules, we are guided by the Gitjawil Yurpa.[1] Gitjawil Yurpa reminds us that governance is not only about structure or policy – it is about relationships, responsibility and respect. Our rules honour the authority of those who hold knowledge, uphold the protocols that connect us to each other and to Country, and reflect the way our communities have always made decisions. Decisions through yarning, consensus building, accountability and care.*
>
> *We acknowledge that we exist within a time of legal pluralism. Aboriginal Lore and Law, the first lore/law of this place, has never ceased to operate, even as a colonial legal system has tried to deny it. We recognise the need to navigate between legal*

[1] Gitjawil Yurpa expresses *many having to put forth* in Dja Dja Wurrung language.

systems, and in doing so, we affirm that Aboriginal Lore and Law are not secondary, symbolic or historical – but are legitimate, living and continuing. These rules are created as a bridge between systems. They speak to our people, they speak back to the state, they speak to all who wish to engage with it.

The fact that we are here, making rules in our own name, is a testament to our survival. It reflects generations of resistance – through public leadership, quiet strength, cultural practice and legal knowledge carried in kinship, Country and ceremony. This is not a new beginning, but a continuation of what has always been true, that we are the First Peoples.

As we are our Ancestors, and we are our Country, we claim our Ancestral birthright. It is in this spirit that the fire stick has been lit, to tend to the fires awoken by our Elders and Ancestors, for this fire stick to be carried and nurtured by Gellung Warl. The fire stick is how we take fire across Country, across generations – for Gellung Warl to light its own fire. One that will cleanse, will nourish, will maintain Country, will draw on many voices to carry forward one strength.

In a time now shaped by treaty-making, truth-telling and institutional change, we hold firm to what must not be lost – our ways of being, our cultural foundations, our obligations to future generations. These rules are made not only to meet current needs but to reflect who we are, where we come from, and where we are going. They are made with respect for the past, commitment to the present, and vision for the future we traverse in the Treaty era."

3.2 Grounded in Culture

Our systems of governance have covered this place since the first sunrise – they flowed through rivers and songlines, through kinship and ceremony. The light from that first sunrise now shines down on these rules, a written form of our governance, to show how these systems of governance are here, now, evolving; re-shaping and re-forming just as Country does. Our governance transforms structure into story, procedure into practice, and compliance into culture. It is a continuation of the oldest continuous governance system in the world – rooted in Country, held in the embrace of truth-telling, nourished by the songs of our old people, and shaped by our self-determination.

4 Purpose

These rules set out an interim internal governance structure for the Assembly to uphold and respect:

(a) proper, consistent, and sound internal governance;

(b) cultural protocols;

(c) the independence of Nginma Ngainga Wara and Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna;

(d) accountability in decision-making and the performance of functions;

(e) efficient and effective internal processes; and

(f) the diversity of First Peoples, their cultural knowledge and the right to self-determination.

5 Application

These rules apply to Gellung Warl and its constituent arms including the Assembly, Nginma Ngainga Wara and Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna and to the CEO.

6 Commencement

These rules commence on the day they are made by the Assembly.

7 Definitions

(a) Unless the contrary intention appears, a term has the same meaning given to it in the Statewide Treaty Act or in any other internal rules made by the Assembly.

(b) Unless the contrary intention appears, in these rules the following terms have the corresponding meaning:

Term	Meaning
Appointee	The person appointed by the CEO under rule 8.2.5(a)(i) to conduct the Assembly Co-Chair election.
Assembly	First Peoples' Assembly.
Assembly Chamber or Chamber	An ordinary or special meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly called under the Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules.
Assembly Co-Chair	A person elected Assembly Co-Chair under rule 8.2.
Assembly Co-Chair (Roles and Responsibilities) Policy	The policy made by the Assembly, as in force from time to time, titled the Assembly Co-Chair (Roles and Responsibilities) Policy (or similar name), that sets out the roles and responsibilities of an Assembly Co-Chair.
Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules	Internal rules made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act that provide for the matters set out in Schedule 1, Items 1 and 9 to that Act relating to meetings and decision-making.
Assembly Member	A member of the First Peoples' Assembly.

CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of Gellung Warl.
Committee	A committee established by or under rules 8.4-8.5.
Community Governance and Answerability Framework	Gellung Warl's Community Governance and Answerability Framework developed and implemented by the Assembly under section 160 of the Statewide Treaty Act.
Elders' Group	A group of Elders to be determined by the Assembly, from time to time, to whom the Assembly assigns, from time to time, functions that are culturally appropriate for Elders to perform.
Gellung Warl Member Standards of Conduct	Standards made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 152 of the Statewide Treaty Act.
Gellung Warl Membership Rules	Internal rules made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act that provide for the matters listed in Schedule 1, Items 1, 3-5 and 9 to that Act relating to membership.
Gellung Warl Record Management and Information Rules	Internal rules made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act that provide for the matters listed in Schedule 1, Items 8 relating to record management and information.
Gender Representation	The requirement that where there are two positions or offices, the holders should be of different genders and at least one should not identify as male, the purposes being to promote gender inclusion and address the historic and ongoing gender imbalance in leadership positions.
Inaugural Assembly Chamber	The first meeting of the Assembly following its establishment, which is convened by the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair under the Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules.
Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair	The Chief Executive Officer of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Ltd or their appointee.
Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election	The first election of Assembly Co-Chairs to occur after the Assembly is established, which is held under rule 8.2.7(a).
Membership Oversight Committee	The committee established by rule 8.4.
Nginma Ngainga Wara Rules	Internal rules made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 33 of the

	Statewide Treaty Act that provide for the matters set out in Schedule 1, Items 1 and 4 to that Act relating to Nginma Ngainga Wara.
Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna Rules	Internal rules made or amended by the Assembly and in force from time to time under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act that provide for the matters listed in Schedule 1, Items 1 and 5 to that Act relating to Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna.
Secret Ballot	As defined in the Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules.
Subcommittee	A smaller committee formed by a Committee or the Assembly under these rules to advance a sub-set of a Committee's work.
Statewide Treaty Act	The *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic).

Carrying the Fire Stick

8 First Peoples' Assembly

Outline

Rule 8 sets out rules about the governance structure of the Assembly, including: Assembly Chambers; Assembly Co-Chairs and other leadership positions.

8.1 Assembly Chamber

(a) Ordinary and special meetings of the First Peoples' Assembly are called Assembly Chambers.

(b) An Assembly Chamber is called in accordance with the Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules.

8.2 Assembly Co-Chairs

8.2.1 Position of Assembly Co-Chair

(a) The Assembly must elect two Assembly Members as the Assembly Co-Chairs:

(i) in accordance with the procedure in rule 8.2.3-8.2.5 or 8.2.7 (whichever relevant); and

(ii) subject to the eligibility requirement and for the term specified in the Gellung Warl Membership Rules.

(b) The Assembly Co-Chairs must be elected in a manner that ensures Gender Representation.

8.2.2 Role, functions and powers

(a) The Assembly Co-Chairs have the role of leading the Assembly.

(b) The Assembly Co-Chairs have the following functions:

(i) chair Assembly Chambers and meetings of the Membership Oversight Committee;

(ii) perform the functions and duties of the Chairperson of the First Peoples' Assembly under the Statewide Treaty, Statewide Treaty Act and other applicable laws;

(iii) lead and be the spokespersons for the Assembly, Gellung Warl and the Treaty process;

(iv) promote the participation of Assembly Members in the work of the Assembly;

(v) oversee and support the CEO in the discharge of their role and duties;

(vi) perform such other functions and duties provided under internal rules or policies made under those rules or made under the Statewide Treaty, Statewide Treaty Act; and

(vii) fulfil the roles and responsibilities in the Assembly Co-Chair (Roles and Responsibilities) Policy.

(c) The Assembly Co-Chairs have the powers to do all things that are necessary and convenient for or in connection with the performance of their role and functions and duties under the Statewide Treaty Act and internal rules and any policies made under those rules or under that Act or as otherwise authorised by the Assembly.

8.2.3 Nominating as an Assembly Co-Chair

(a) As soon as practicable after a general election, or when an Assembly Co-Chair election is otherwise required under an internal rule, the CEO will circulate to all Assembly Members a call for Assembly Co-Chair nominations, and notify Assembly Members of the applicable timeframes and process, as determined in accordance with this rule.

(b) Subject to rule 8.2.3(g), an Assembly Member may nominate themselves or another Assembly Member as a candidate for the position of Assembly Co-Chair.

(c) A nomination must include the following:

(i) the name of the nominee and the nominee's gender; and

(ii) where the nomination is made by another Assembly Member, consent to the nomination and confirmation of the matters in rule 8.2.3(c)(i).

(d) A nomination may be made:

(i) at least three business days before the date of the Assembly Co-Chair election, in accordance with rule 8.2.3(e); or

(ii) at the Assembly Co-Chair election during the period in which nominations are called from the floor;

and if the nomination is valid under this rule, the person nominated becomes a candidate for the position of Assembly Co-Chair.

(e) For the purposes of rule 8.2.3(d)(i), a nomination must be submitted to the CEO at least three business days before the date of the Assembly Co-Chair election and may be accompanied by a written candidate statement outlining the candidate's skills, capacity, capabilities and cultural positioning as an Assembly Co-Chair. Any written candidate statements received by the CEO within that time will be circulated to all Assembly Members at least one day before the Assembly Co-Chair election.

(f) Without limiting rule 8.2.3(e), a candidate will have an opportunity to make a verbal candidate statement during the Assembly Co-Chair election, subject to time limits set by the CEO or the Appointee.

(g) A candidate for the position of Assembly Co-Chair:

(i) must be an Assembly Member and must meet the applicable eligibility requirements in the Gellung Warl Membership Rules; and

(ii) must not be suspended or on a leave of absence at the time of nomination.

8.2.4 When voting is not required

(a) If there is one nomination for an Assembly Co-Chair position, that candidate is deemed elected at the Assembly Chamber at which the Assembly Co-Chair election was to take place and a vote will not be held. The Assembly may elect the other Assembly Co-Chair at that or a later Assembly Chamber, but must ensure that there is Gender Representation.

(b) If there are two nominations for Assembly Co-Chair and those nominations together ensure Gender Representation, both candidates are deemed elected at the meeting at which the Assembly Co-Chair election was to take place and a vote will not be held.

(c) If there are more than two nominations and only one candidate is needed to ensure Gender Representation (that is, only one candidate does not identify as male), that candidate is deemed elected and no vote is held for that Assembly Co-Chair position. A vote is required for the other Assembly Co-Chair position.

(d) If an Assembly Member raises an objection to the operation of this rule in respect of the Gender Representation requirement, the objection must be put as a motion to the Assembly Chamber. If the Chamber decides to approve the motion, the election will be conducted under rule 8.2.5.

8.2.5 Election of an Assembly Co-Chair

(a) Subject to rule 8.2.4, the two Assembly Co-Chairs will be elected as follows:

(i) The election will be conducted by the Appointee appointed by the CEO in accordance with this rule.

(ii) The election will be conducted by Secret Ballot at an Assembly Chamber.

(iii) The election of each Assembly Co-Chair will be decided by an optional preferential vote.

(iv) The Assembly must ensure that there is Gender Representation, and to achieve this, the Appointee will prepare two lists:

A. one list with only the names of candidates who do not identify as male, in alphabetical order (by last name); and

one list with only the names of candidates who identify as male, in alphabetical order (by last name).

(v) In preparing the lists, the Appointee must ensure that the lists reflect the Gender Representation requirement, have regard to the gender of each candidate as expressed by that candidate at the time of nomination, and has discretion as to how the lists are prepared.

(vi) Each Assembly Member present and voting in the Assembly Chamber must cast an optional preferential vote by numbering one or more candidates in order of preference on each prepared list.

(vii) If two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes after all preferences have been counted, a further ballot will be conducted in accordance with this rule. To avoid doubt the further ballot will include only the tied candidates. If there are two tied candidates, the ballot will be a first-past-the-post vote conducted by Secret Ballot and if there are three or more tied candidates the further ballot will be conducted by optional preferential vote. If the tie remains unresolved after a further ballot, the result will be determined by random draw conducted by the Appointee in the presence of a scrutineer appointed for that purpose.

(viii) Before the Assembly Chamber closes, as part of the Assembly Co-Chair election, the Assembly Co-Chairs must be declared elected by the Appointee and will assume office immediately on the declaration being made.

(b) If there is one Assembly Co-Chair candidate under this rule due to the operation of rule 8.2.4(c), the election will be conducted in accordance with rule 8.2.5(a), with any necessary modifications.

(c) If there are no Assembly Co-Chair election candidates under this rule, the Assembly must appoint acting Assembly Co-Chairs under these rules and hold an Assembly Co-Chair election within the following six months.

8.2.6 Appointment of acting Assembly Co-Chair

(a) The Assembly may appoint a person as an acting Assembly Co-Chair:

(i) in accordance with the procedure in rule 8.2.6(b)-(f);

(ii) subject to the applicable Assembly Co-Chair eligibility requirements in the Gellung Warl Membership Rules; and

(iii) in the circumstance permitted by the Gellung Warl Membership Rules.

(b) An acting Assembly Co-Chair must be appointed by a first-past-the-post vote conducted by Secret Ballot, and the Assembly must ensure that there is Gender Representation.

(c) If there is one Assembly Co-Chair position vacant, the following process applies:

(i) an Assembly Member may nominate themselves or another Assembly Member as an acting Assembly Co-Chair candidate at the Assembly Chamber at which the acting appointment is to be made;

(ii) each Assembly Member present and voting at the Assembly Chamber casts one vote for their preferred candidate; and

(iii) the candidate with the most votes is appointed acting Assembly Co-Chair.

(d) If there are two Assembly Co-Chair positions vacant, the following process applies:

(i) An Assembly Member may nominate themselves or another Assembly Member as an acting Assembly Co-Chair candidate at the Assembly Chamber at which the acting appointment is to be made.

(ii) The Assembly must ensure that there is Gender Representation, and to achieve this, will prepare two lists:

A. one list with only the names of candidates who do not identify as male, in alphabetical order (by last name); and

B. one list with only the names of candidates who identify as male, in alphabetical order (by last name).

(iii) Each Assembly Member present and voting at the Assembly Chamber must cast one vote for their preferred candidate on each prepared list.

(iv) The candidate with the highest number of votes on each list is appointed acting Assembly Co-Chair.

(e) Where two or more candidates receive an equal highest number of votes:

(i) a further vote must be held between those candidates; and

(ii) the candidate with the highest number of votes is appointed acting Assembly Co-Chair.

(f) If the tie remains unresolved, the result will be determined by random draw conducted by a person appointed by the CEO for that purpose and in the presence of a scrutineer appointed for that purpose.

8.2.7 Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election

(a) The Assembly must elect Assembly Co-Chairs at the Inaugural Assembly Chamber or as soon as practicable after the Assembly is established, in accordance with this rule.

(b) The Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair must take steps to facilitate the prompt conduct of the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election and may make modifications to the procedure for electing Assembly Co-Chairs in rule 8.2.3-8.2.5, in accordance with this rule.

(c) Rule 8.2.3 applies to the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election with the following modifications:

(i) the role of the CEO will be performed by the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair;

(ii) Assembly Members will be given sufficient notice of the identity and contact details of the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair to enable them to make nominations and have written candidate statements circulated under this rule;

(iii) rule 8.2.3(d)(i) and (e) do not apply to the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election and instead:

A. a candidate may submit a nomination and provide a written candidate statement outlining the candidate's skills, capacity, capabilities and cultural positioning as an Assembly Co-Chair to the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair any time prior to the commencement of the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election; and

B. any written candidate statements received by the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair within that time will be circulated to Assembly Members, if time permits, as soon as reasonably possible before the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election;

(iv) the Inaugural Co-Chair Election may be held without any time period between the calling of that election and the holding of that election provided that:

A. candidates are given the opportunity to nominate from the floor; and

B. any candidate who has prepared a written statement outlining their skills, capacity, capabilities and cultural positioning as an Assembly Co-Chair is given the opportunity to have the written statement circulated to Assembly Members, if reasonably practical and if time permits; and

C. rule 8.2.3(f) is followed; and

(v) any other modification that the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair determines, having regard to fairness and the need for Assembly Co-Chairs to be elected as soon as practicable, is necessary for the effective conduct of the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election, provided that any such modification is broadly consistent with the procedure for electing Assembly Co-Chairs in rules 8.2.3-8.2.5.

(d) Rules 8.2.4-8.2.6 apply to the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election with the following modifications:

(i) the role of the CEO will be performed by the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair (where applicable);

(ii) references to Assembly Chamber are references to the Inaugural Assembly Chamber, except where rule 8.2.6 is being applied;

(iii) any other modification that the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair determines, having regard to fairness and the need for Assembly Co-Chairs to be elected as soon as practicable, is necessary for the effective conduct of the Inaugural

Assembly Co-Chair Election, provided that any such modification is broadly consistent with the procedure for electing Assembly Co-Chairs in rule 8.2.3-8.2.5.

(e) Where notice was given, nominations were submitted and candidate statements were circulated under this rule before the commencement of this rule, or other procedural steps were taken by the Inaugural Assembly Chamber Chair or an Assembly Member in connection with the Inaugural Assembly Co-Chair Election under this rule before the commencement of this rule, the Assembly may determine that the notice given, the nomination submitted, the candidate statement circulated or the other procedural step taken is taken to have been done in accordance with this rule if satisfied that the act or step complies with the requirements of this rule.

8.3 Other leadership positions

8.3.1 Leadership positions

(a) In addition to the Assembly Co-Chairs, the Assembly will have such leadership positions established by the Assembly from time to time:

Example: the Assembly may establish leadership positions, such as a youth Assembly representative, Elders' Assembly Representative or a regional representative.

(b) Assembly Members must be elected and appointed to leadership positions in a manner that ensures Gender Representation.

(c) Assembly Members may be elected to a leadership position:

(i) in accordance with the procedure in rule 8.2.6, which applies with any necessary modifications to the relevant Assembly leadership position; and

(ii) subject to the applicable eligibility and qualification requirements and for the term of office in these rules and the Gellung Warl Membership Rules.

(d) The Assembly may appoint a person to a leadership position in an acting capacity:

(i) in accordance with the procedure in rule 8.2.6, which applies with any necessary modifications to the relevant Assembly leadership position; and

(ii) subject to the applicable eligibility and qualification requirements applying to that leadership position in these rules and the Gellung Warl Membership Rules; and

(iii) in the circumstance permitted by the Gellung Warl Membership Rules.

(f) Where Assembly Members are elected or appointed to leadership positions at the Inaugural Assembly Chamber, elections or appointments will be conducted in accordance with rule 8.2.6, which applies with any necessary modifications to the relevant Assembly leadership position, and with further modifications in rule 8.2.7(c)(i), (ii), (iv) and (v), to the extent applicable and adapted as necessary to apply to the election and appointment of leadership positions under this rule.

(g) To avoid doubt, rule 8.3.1(c)-(f) permits the procedure in rule 8.2.6 to be modified to ensure applicable eligibility and qualification requirements are met.

Example: A nomination process may be adopted to enable verification of candidates against eligibility and qualification requirements before a vote.

8.3.2 Role, functions and powers

(a) Assembly Members holding leadership positions have the role of assisting the Assembly Co-Chairs to lead the Assembly.

(b) Assembly Members holding leadership positions perform the functions and exercise the powers conferred on them under these rules or as determined by the Assembly from time to time.

8.4 Membership Oversight Committee

(a) The Assembly has a Membership Oversight Committee responsible for matters relating to Gellung Warl membership.

(b) The Membership Oversight Committee has the following functions:

(i) perform functions and duties and exercise powers under the Gellung Warl Membership Rules;

(ii) monitor compliance with the Gellung Warl Member Standards of Conduct; and

(iii) perform any functions and duties and exercise any powers given to the Membership Oversight Committee under any other internal rules or under policies made under internal rules or made under the Statewide Treaty, Statewide Treaty Act, or delegated to it by the Assembly.

(c) The Membership Oversight Committee will consist of:

(i) the Assembly Co-Chairs; and

(ii) three Assembly Members elected in accordance with the procedure in rule 8.2.6, which applies with any necessary modifications to the election of an Assembly Member to the Membership Oversight Committee.

(d) Subject to this rule and the Gellung Warl Membership Rules, the Assembly will ensure the Membership Oversight Committee has terms of reference that include:

(i) purpose and scope;

(ii) membership, terms and selection process;

(iii) recognition of Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority;

(iv) meeting procedures, including quorum;

(v) decision-making authority and delegations; and

(vi) recording and reporting requirements.

(e) The Membership Oversight Committee has the powers to do all things that are necessary and convenient for or in connection with the performance of its role and functions and duties under these rules and as provided in the terms of reference, internal rules, policies or as otherwise delegated by the Assembly.

(f) To avoid doubt, the Membership Oversight Committee is concerned with Gellung Warl Member conduct and does not exercise external integrity, audit, or investigative functions.

(g) A member of the Membership Oversight Committee has the following functions:

(i) attend and participate in Committee meetings;

(i) contribute to decision-making on matters relating to membership under the Gellung Warl Membership Rules;

(ii) support the Committee to fulfill its functions under rule 8.4; and

(iii) perform such other roles and duties as provided in the terms of reference, internal rules, policies or as otherwise authorised by the Assembly.

(h) To avoid doubt, a person does not hold a leadership position by reason only of being a member of the Membership Oversight Committee, unless the Assembly determines otherwise.

(i) A member of the Membership Oversight Committee has the powers to do all things that are necessary and convenient for or in connection with the performance of their role and functions and duties under these rules and as provided in the terms of reference, internal rules, policies or as otherwise authorised by the Assembly.

(j) A member of the Membership Oversight Committee must hold the following qualifications:

(i) demonstrated skills and experience in governance and procedural decision-making; and

(ii) cultural knowledge and experience in the handling of sensitive cultural and conduct matters.

(k) The Assembly will monitor the performance of the Membership Oversight Committee to ensure it is effectively discharging its functions, in accordance with any policy made under these rules.

8.5 Assembly Committees

(a) The Assembly may establish Committees from time to time under this rule.

(b) In establishing a Committee, the Assembly will have regard to:

(i) effective implementation of the Community and Governance Answerability Framework (once in force);

(ii) efficient performance of functions and duties under the Statewide Treaty and Statewide Treaty Act;

(iii) the role of the Elders' Group (once established);

(iv) Assembly Members' interests, expertise and workload distribution; and

(v) coordination and oversight, including in respect of Nginma Ngainga Wara and Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna.

(c) A Committee that is established under this rule will consist of:

(i) a maximum number of ordinary Committee members provided for in the terms of reference for the Committee who are appointed to the Committee by Ordinary Resolution; and

(ii) any independent members, being an external person independent of Gellung Warl, provided for in the terms of reference for that Committee; and

(d) A Committee that is established under this rule may include a committee convener which the Assembly may determine to be a leadership position.

(e) To avoid doubt, a person does not hold a leadership position by reason only of being a member of a Committee.

(f) Subject to the Gellung Warl Membership Rules, the Assembly will ensure a Committee has terms of reference that include:

(i) purpose and scope;

(ii) membership, terms and selection process;

(iii) recognition of Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority;

(iv) meeting procedures, including quorum;

(v) decision-making authority and delegations; and

(vi) recording and reporting requirements.

(g) A Committee has the powers to do all things that are necessary and convenient for or in connection with the performance of its role and functions and duties under these rules and as provided in the terms of reference, internal rules, policies or as otherwise delegated by the Assembly.

8.6 Subcommittees

(a) The Assembly may establish Subcommittees from time to time under this rule, and a Committee may establish a Subcommittee from time to time under this rule provided that it is empowered to do so by that Committee's terms of reference.

(b) In establishing a Subcommittee, the Assembly or a Committee (whichever relevant) will have regard to the need for specialised focus, improvement or assistance with a sub-set of the parent Committee's work, including:

(i) workload and Committee capacity;

(ii) efficient decision-making;

(iii) targeted expertise or specialisation; and

(iv) diversity of representation and participation, including regional, cultural, age, gender identity, sex, sexuality, and ability.

(c) A Subcommittee established under this rule will consist of:

(i) a maximum number of Subcommittee members provided for in the terms of reference for the Subcommittee who are appointed to the Subcommittee by

Ordinary Resolution of the Assembly or by majority decision by a Committee (whichever relevant); and

(ii) any independent members, being an external person independent of Gellung Warl, provided for in the terms of reference for that Subcommittee.

(d) To avoid doubt, a person does not hold a leadership position by reason only of being a member of a Subcommittee.

(e) The Assembly or a Committee (whichever relevant) will ensure a Subcommittee has and follows terms of reference that include:

(i) purpose and scope;

(ii) membership, terms and selection process;

(iii) recognition of Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority;

(iv) meeting procedures, including quorum;

(v) decision-making authority and delegations; and

(vi) recording and reporting requirements.

9 Oversight of Nginma Ngainga Wara

Outline

Rule 9 sets out rules on the matter of oversight of Nginma Ngainga Wara by the Assembly in a manner that ensures accountability while preserving Nginma Ngainga Wara's independence with respect to the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

9.1 Oversight by the Assembly

(a) Nginma Ngainga Wara members will meet regularly with the Assembly Co-Chairs to:

(i) coordinate activities and address operational matters; and

(ii) share information, subject to the Gellung Warl Record Management and Information Rules, the Statewide Treaty Act, and other applicable laws.

(b) Nginma Ngainga Wara must provide a written report to the Assembly, in the manner and timing, as reasonably determined by the Assembly, on matters that may include:

(i) current inquiries, monitoring activities and research projects;

(ii) progress against the annual forward plan;

(iii) key findings and emerging issues;

(iv) recommendations being developed;

(v) stakeholder engagement; and

(vi) any matters requiring decision or input from the Assembly.

(c) Nginma Ngainga Wara will present annually to the Assembly Chamber.

(d) The Assembly must conduct an annual review of Nginma Ngainga Wara's performance, operations, and effectiveness and, subject to the Statewide Treaty Act, may give direction to Nginma Ngainga Wara on these matters.

(e) The annual review by the Assembly must consider:

(i) achievement of annual forward plan objectives;

(ii) quality and impact of inquiries, monitoring, and research;

(iii) implementation of Nginma Ngainga Wara recommendations;

(iv) efficiency and effectiveness of operations;

(v) adequacy of resources;

(vi) stakeholder feedback; and

(vii) areas for improvement.

(f) Subject to the Statewide Treaty Act, the Assembly may give direction to Nginma Ngainga Wara in relation to and for the purpose of ensuring the alignment of its establishment and operations with the Community Governance and Answerability Framework (once in force).

(g) The Assembly may, in consultation with Nginma Ngainga Wara, develop a policy that governs the Assembly's oversight of Nginma Ngainga Wara.

10 Oversight of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna

Outline

Rule 10 sets out rules on the matter of oversight of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna by the Assembly in a manner that ensures accountability while preserving of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna's independence with respect to the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

10.1 Oversight by the Assembly

(a) Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna members must meet regularly with the Assembly Co-Chair to:

(i) coordinate activities and address operational matters; and

(ii) share information, subject to the Gellung Warl Record Management and Information Rules, the Statewide Treaty Act, and other applicable laws.

(b) Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna must provide a written report to the Assembly, in the manner and timing, as reasonably determined by the Assembly on:

(i) current truth-telling activities and initiatives;

(ii) community engagement activities;

(iii) archive development and management; and

(iv) any matters requiring the decision or input from the Assembly.

(c) Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna will present annually to the Assembly Chamber.

(d) The Assembly must conduct an annual review of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna's performance, operations, and effectiveness and may give direction to Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna on these matters.

(e) The annual review must consider:

(i) progress in truth-telling activities;

(ii) community participation and engagement;

(iii) archive development and accessibility;

(iv) healing and reconciliation outcomes;

(v) efficiency and effectiveness of operations;

(vi) adequacy of resources;

(vii) community and stakeholder feedback; and

(viii) areas for improvement.

(f) Before commencing a truth-telling initiative, Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna will consult with the Assembly on:

(i) the scope and approach;

(ii) resources implications;

(iii) potential impacts and sensitivities;

(iv) alignment with Assembly priorities; and

(v) any community support needs.

(g) Subject to the Statewide Treaty Act, the Assembly may give direction to Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna in relation to and for the purpose of ensuring the alignment of its establishment and operations with the Community Governance and Answerability Framework (once in force).

(h) The Assembly may, in consultation with Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna, develop a policy that governs the Assembly's oversight of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna.

11 Validity of Acts

An act done by a person under or in connection with these rules is be taken to have been an act done in accordance with these rules even if there was a vacancy in the role or office, or it is later discovered the appointment of that person to the role or office was defective or had ceased.

12 Information Walking with these Rules

At the time these rules were made, the following rules and other documents are relevant to their operation. Other rules and other documents may be made from time to time that are also relevant to their operation.

12.1 Internal rules

(a) Assembly Meeting and Decision-Making Rules

(b) Gellung Warl Membership Rules

12.2 Policies and procedures

(a) Assembly Co-Chair (Roles and Responsibilities) Policy

12.3 Other instruments

(a) Gellung Warl Member Standards of Conduct

13 Amendments

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Detail
1.0	7 May 2026	Assembly Chamber	n/a
1.1	1 October 2026	Assembly Chamber	As amended by **Interim Assembly Internal Governance Amendment Rules**, 1 October 2026