

Interim Gellung Warl Use and Custody of the Common Seal Rules

1 Interim Gellung Warl Use and Custody of the Common Seal Rules, Version 1.0,
approved 8 May 2026



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Lighting the Fire Stick

1 Name

The name of these rules is the Interim Gellung Warl Use and Custody of the Common Seal 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 First Peoples' Assembly under section 33 of the Statewide Treaty Act and Schedule 1, Item 1.12 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.

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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

The common seal is a living emblem of cultural accountability, binding Gellung Warl to the responsibilities of kinship, Community and Country. It is not merely a stamp, but a mark of cultural authorisation – a moment where the collective decision becomes visible, tangible. A mark that is defined by us, created by us, held by us. Those entrusted with the common seal hold it as custodians bound by obligations. Obligations that are inherited through the strength of Community and Country, only to be enacted at the right time, and when the calling of our Lore and Law are heard.

4 Purpose

These rules provide interim arrangements for the use and custody of the Common Seal of Gellung Warl to uphold and respect accountability and ensure sound governance.

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, in respect of the use and custody of the Common Seal of Gellung Warl.

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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
Assembly	First Peoples' Assembly.
CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of Gellung Warl.
Gellung Warl Common Seal Policy	The policy made by the Assembly under rules 8(c) , as in force from time to time, titled the Gellung Warl Common Seal Policy (or similar name).
Statewide Treaty Act	The <i>Statewide Treaty Act 2025</i> (Vic).

8 Use and Custody of the Common Seal

Outline

Rule 8 sets out rules about the use and custody of the common seal of Gellung Warl.

- (a) The common seal of Gellung Warl must be kept in a secure location under the control of the CEO.
- (b) The common seal of Gellung Warl may be affixed to a document where its use has been authorised by the Assembly passing an Ordinary Resolution specifically relating to that document.
- (c) Gellung Warl may develop a policy in relation to the use and custody of the common seal of Gellung Warl, consistent with these rules.



9 Authorisation to execute instruments without using the common seal.

Outline

Rule 9 sets out rules about how instruments may be executed on behalf of Gellung Warl.

- (a) The following Gellung Warl officials are authorised to sign a deed or instrument in accordance with section 11(3)(b) of the Statewide Treaty Act:
 - (i) a Ngingma Nginga Wara member;
 - (ii) a Nyerna Yoorook Telkuna member; and
 - (iii) an Assembly Co-Chair.
- (b) Subject to any policy in place from time to time in relation to the execution of instruments under [rule 9](#) a Gellung Warl staff member is authorised to sign a deed or instrument in accordance with section 11(3)(b) of the Statewide Treaty Act.
- (c) To avoid doubt, until a policy is made under [rule 9\(b\)](#), the authority conferred by [rule 9\(a\)](#) has full effect.

10 Validity of Acts

An act done by a person under or in connection with these rules is valid 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.

Nurturing the Fire Stick

11 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.

11.1 Policies and procedures

- (a) Gellung Warl Common Seal Policy

12 Amendments

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Review Date	Changes Made

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