STATEWIDE TREATY

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA LTD AND THE STATE OF VICTORIA

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA

VICTORIA State Government

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FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA LTD
AND
THE STATE OF VICTORIA

Signed 13 November 2025

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PREAMBLE

The place we now call Victoria holds the oldest living cultures on Earth – a truth that belongs to all Victorians and a legacy to uphold with pride. Victoria today is shared by many cultures, each adding to the richness of its story. One of Victoria's greatest strengths is its courage to face the truth – to listen with open hearts, and to move forward with honesty.

Yet the relationship between First Peoples and the State of Victoria has been profoundly shaped by colonisation and its enduring harm. Our shared history bears the weight of injustice, dispossession, disruption of Country and acts that sought to erase First Peoples and silence cultures. The Yoorrook Justice Commission revealed how deeply this pain and trauma runs – and how it continues to shape lives, families, and communities today.

We stand together committed to a better future – one that is just, fair, and equitable, and honours the rightful place of First Peoples.

Treaty is how we make that future possible.

This Statewide Treaty marks a moment of truth and courage. It brings together the First Peoples of these lands and waters – through the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria – and the State of Victoria on behalf of all Victorians, to forge a renewed and enduring relationship built on respect, trust, accountability and integrity. It invites every Victorian – no matter their background or how long they've called this place home – to be part of a shared future grounded in justice, understanding and unity.

This Statewide Treaty honours the unbroken relationship of First Peoples to Country, and to Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority. These obligations have been carried faithfully since the first sunrise. The ancient stories of these lands, waters, skies and stars still speak to those willing to listen – and the more we come to know them, the better we can care for Country together.

Treaty is an opportunity to listen, to learn, and to affirm the rightful place of First Peoples as decision-makers of their own futures, on their own Country. It recognises the need for meaningful change – enabling self-determination to flourish, for the good of all.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, as the elected representative body for First Peoples, carries forward the collective strength of First Peoples' communities and nations. The Elders and Ancestors who came before us lit the fires that guide First Peoples still – this Treaty for the generations affirms the enduring presence and rights of First Peoples – a flame that will never be extinguished.

The State of Victoria enters this Treaty to reckon with the past, to create lasting change, and to build a stronger, fairer future for everyone lucky enough to find belonging in this land. This is a place of ideas and energy – a state alive with culture, creativity, and difference – where people come not just to live, but to belong. It is only in a place like this, bold enough to face hard truths and generous enough to imagine something better, that the words of this Treaty could be scribed.

This Statewide Treaty marks a new beginning – an invitation to walk forward together, guided by truth, integrity and determination.

Through Treaty, we build a better future for all.

PART ONE
BACKGROUND AND FOUNDATIONS

1 Our history and the path to Treaty

1.1 Our history

For tens of thousands of years on the lands and waters now called Victoria, First Peoples lived with Country – felt it, breathed it, held it – sustaining both land and people through a unique, reciprocal relationship that nurtured stable societies, thriving cultures and healthy environments. Country is not separate from people; it is who First Peoples are. This enduring connection has been carried across countless generations at the heart of First Peoples' identity and belonging. There is no English word that fully captures its depth; only the first languages of this Country come close, though many of those words lie hidden now, known in memory more than on the tongue.

The coming of Europeans shattered that relationship. The colony of Victoria was established without the consent, negotiation or recognition of the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters. What followed was violence, destruction and dispossession – a rush to take land, lives, and resources, leaving lasting scars on families, communities and Country itself.

Through the truth-telling process instigated by First Peoples and established by agreement between the Assembly and the State, the Yoorrook Justice Commission has illuminated this painful history, making clear that 'the past is the present'. For the first time, many of these truths have been spoken plainly. Truth-telling has not been easy to hear, but it has opened a door – to understanding, and to a more honest conversation about who we are as a state. The injustices that began with colonisation – dispossession, racism, and discrimination – continue to shape the lives of First Peoples today.

Treaty is the next step through that door. It is not about dwelling in the past, nor laying blame. It is about acknowledging that the past still shapes the present and choosing to do better from here.

First Peoples come with a humble request: that Victoria finally honours the dignity of First Peoples, and that together we build a future that is fairer, more honest, and fosters respect for all who make their lives here.

This path asks something of all of us. It asks us to listen, to care, and to walk forward in good faith – not as strangers, nor as adversaries, but as partners and equals.

For generations, First Peoples have kept faith with this land, and with each other. Now, Victoria is asked to keep faith with First Peoples – and with itself.

This Statewide Treaty is shaped by an unbroken resolve passed through countless generations to bring us to this moment. Its foundation is resistance, its spine is truth, and its purpose is clear: to claim, at last, the dignity and justice of being treated as First Peoples always should have been – as equals in their own Country and the first custodians of this land that we are all fortunate enough to live in.

At the heart of this Statewide Treaty, lies recognition of the enduring connection between First Peoples and Country – a connection unlike any other. This Statewide Treaty acknowledges this unique position: as both residents of Victoria and Traditional Owners, First Peoples express their belonging to Country in diverse ways, but always as part of an unbroken relationship with the lands and waters of this place.

The State on behalf of all Victorians acknowledges this. The State recognises the deep and continuing injustices endured by First Peoples – dispossession of land, the forced removal of children, and the discrimination woven into laws and institutions. Through the truth-telling of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, these harms have been brought into the open, revealing how past and present State actions have left lasting wounds on families, communities and Country.

And so, the State does not turn away. It steps forward – not only as a signatory to this Treaty, but as a partner in its promise. It accepts the weight of history, and the responsibility to help carry it. In doing so, the State affirms that its power can be used not only to govern, but to repair. It is a rare thing for a government to admit it was wrong – rarer still to commit, in plain words and enduring actions, to making it right. Yet that is what this moment asks. That is what this moment makes possible – a moment we claim together.

As the Yoorrook Justice Commission has affirmed, the lands the British Crown claimed were not 'discovered', nor was it 'founded' by settlers. For at least sixty thousand years, First Peoples have walked here, speaking more than forty languages across some 300 to 500 clan groups, living in balance with the land and waters of Victoria.

This Country was never empty, never unclaimed. The fiction of 'land belonging to no one' ignored those already here.

From 1834, colonisation swept across Victoria, carving into Gunditjmara Country and beyond in a frenzy of taking land and water. The gold rush of 1851 only quickened the pace and deepened the damage. First Peoples were driven from their lands, and massacres followed – by the 1860s, almost fifty were reported, with nearly a thousand First Peoples killed.

Within two decades of colonisation, the population of First Peoples had reduced by nearly ninety percent.

Laws and policies formalised this violent dispossession, forcing First Peoples onto missions and reserves where they were controlled, punished, stripped of language, cultural practices

and kinship systems, and subjected to faith-based doctrine. The Aborigines Protection Acts of 1869 and 1886 entrenched these harms, leaving deep and lasting scars.

The harm of colonisation has not ended. Its legacy – dislocation, grief and trauma – still ripples through families and communities today. It can be seen in the ongoing discrimination First Peoples face in child protection, justice, health, housing, education and politics.

The gap between First Peoples and others did not suddenly appear only when governments began acknowledging it in recent times. It is the result of deliberate and systemic exclusion of First Peoples from the systems and structures being built around them, upon which others prospered.

Yet through it all, Victorian First Peoples have shown extraordinary strength – holding fast to identity, to Country, and to one another, despite everything done to erase them.

The path to Treaty belongs to all of us who call this place home. It winds through deep time and recent arrival, carrying stories both ancient and new. Whether you were born of this soil or came seeking its promise, there is room on this road for you – to walk with respect, to listen, and to help shape what comes next.

It begins not in this document, but in the long and unfinished story of these lands – a story of care, connection and resilience that has endured the profound upheaval of colonisation: the loss of land, language, children and lives. For generations, First Peoples have carried this truth – quietly at times, loudly at others – resisting assimilation and asking only for what is fair: to be heard, to be respected, to be recognised and to have a say in the future of the lands and communities First Peoples have always been part of.

Treaty offers the clearest way forward – a commitment to justice and self-determination, and returning decision-making power, authority and resources to First Peoples so they can shape their future on their own terms. This journey will continue, through further Statewide Treaties and Traditional Owner Treaties, to deliver self-determined outcomes for First Peoples and create a more just and hopeful future for all Victorians.

1.2 The path to this Statewide Treaty

Treaty honours the long, proud history of resistance, advocacy and activism of First Peoples – carried forward by Elders, in the name of Ancestors, and advanced by communities through the leadership of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. This is the legacy of unwavering resilience and the tireless movements of First Peoples that have carried us to this point.

Victoria has been on the path to this Statewide Treaty for close to a decade. In doing this, Victoria has shown the rest of the nation what is possible if you listen and act with purpose.

The Victorian Government committed to discussing Treaties with First Peoples in early 2016. The State has a responsibility to lead, and it has seized that responsibility. Treaty must live

beyond the page. It must be felt in classrooms and courtrooms, in hospitals and homes, in the lives of First Peoples and in the lives of all Victorians. This is not charity or concession – it is justice, and it is sound governance.

The path to Treaty gained shape with the significant work with the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group and the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission. That work led to Australia's first Treaty legislation – the *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018* – enshrining the State's commitment to pursuing Treaty and the establishment of an independent and democratically elected representative body for First Peoples, the Assembly.

Following an historic agreement, the Assembly and the State established the Treaty Authority to ensure the Treaty process is fair for all negotiating parties, and the *Treaty Authority and Other Treaty Elements Act 2022* was enacted by the Victorian Parliament.

Finally, the Assembly and the State agreed on the Treaty Negotiation Framework, which sets out an inclusive process for negotiating Statewide and Traditional Owner Treaties.

1.3 Why we gather here in the present

In accordance with section 30(3) of the Treaty Process Act, this Statewide Treaty marks an important step forward: acknowledging historic wrongs, addressing ongoing injustices, and helping to heal the wounds of the past. This Statewide Treaty will create positive change for Victoria as a whole and strengthen and enrich the laws of this State.

At its heart is a gathering of the people of Victoria – from cities and towns, from farms and suburbs, from families whose roots stretch back generations to those with the ink barely dry on their citizenship certificates. Each of us, in our own way, has a stake in what this place becomes. Together, we are choosing a future shaped not by silence or division, but by courage, truth, and care.

Treaty will create positive change that reaches beyond legislation. It will strengthen our democracy, enrich the laws that govern us, and build a stronger, fairer society for all who call Victoria home. It reminds us that justice is not a fixed point in time, but something we shape – together – in the everyday choices we make, and the commitments we're prepared to honour.

This Statewide Treaty upholds the guiding principles in the Treaty Process Act – the principles of fairness and equality; partnership and good faith; mutual benefit and sustainability; and transparency and accountability.

This is just the beginning.

In the years ahead, more Statewide Treaties and Traditional Owner Treaties will take shape, each guided by self-determination and a shared hope: to create a Victoria where fairness, respect and belonging are felt by everyone who through a strong sense of community, shares in these lands and waters.

1.4 Treaty is for Victoria

There are profound ongoing injustices that First Peoples have suffered, including dispossession, removal and discrimination. First Peoples have experienced pain, anger and sadness as a result of the impacts of colonisation and Government policies, laws, and practices.

Truth is a pathway to acknowledging the past and Treaty is making real, practical change to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria. Treaty is one of the most important steps Victoria has ever taken – a renewed and enduring relationship between First Peoples and the State, grounded in the inherent right of First Peoples to self-determination. It affirms the distinctive status of First Peoples, born of their connection to these lands, waters, skies and stars of this continent, including the Country now called Victoria. These rights are inherent, not granted by the State, and flow from First Peoples' own laws, cultures, and connection to Country, as recognised in the UNDRIP.

At its heart, Treaty is about healing and making a real, practical difference for First Peoples and for the Country that has carried their footsteps since time began. It reaches into the wounds left by colonisation, seeking to stitch what was torn apart: culture, identity, and the deep connection to this place that has never truly been broken.

Despite the impacts on colonisation – too often devastating for families and communities – the Parties recognise First Peoples' ongoing resilience through cultural continuity, resistance and the revitalisation of traditions, knowledge systems and self-determined governance.

Treaty is built on a simple principle: First Peoples decide First Peoples' issues. This doesn't take anything away from anyone else, it only enriches us by creating the conditions for First Peoples to thrive in their own Country. It creates a pathway for self-determined solutions, better outcomes grounded in Community and Culture, while strengthening respect and unity between First Peoples and all Victorians. It charts a path toward the fairer, more just and inclusive society we aspire to become.

The State has made the commitment to Treaty because when First Peoples thrive, all of Victoria is stronger, fairer, and more whole. Treaty is not a gift given, but a commitment made – to practical change, to shared progress, and to a future in which dignity and opportunity belong to all. The State does not shy away from this task. It steps into it with conviction – ready to walk the hard road and deliver what this moment demands for all Victorians.

1.5 The need for Treaty is now

Since the earliest moments of colonisation, successive colonial and State governments have caused – or allowed – serious harm to First Peoples. The impacts of land dispossession continue to shape lives and communities today. A renewed relationship is needed to address these inequities and build a more just future.

The path to Treaty in Victoria has made steady and sensible progress since 2016. As Victorians, we can be proud that when it comes to Treaty, and when it comes to truth – our State leads the nation.

Modern Treaties represent a new approach to resetting the relationship between First Peoples and the State – recognising the need to do things differently.

Treaty recognises the need for self-determined solutions, rooted in Community and Culture, that enable First Peoples to shape their own futures and build lasting prosperity.

Treaty is an expression of shared leadership – from First Peoples, from the Assembly evolving to Gellung Warl, from the State, and from all Victorians.

2 Who First Peoples are today

2.1 Country

The Country of the lands now known as Victoria is richly diverse. From the open grasslands of the Wimmera to the snow-capped peaks of the Alps, the rainforests of the Otways, to the desert sands of the Mallee, each landscape tells stories of ancestral law and belonging. The Birrarung (Yarra) and Dungala (Murray) are lifelines that flow with both water and cultural meaning. Wetlands such as those in Western Victoria are vital ecosystems and ceremonial spaces, while along the eastern Sea Country, the saltwater flows with fish, shellfish, and seabirds. Every feature of this land and its waters is embedded with songlines, creation stories, and Ancestors' spirits. First Peoples' unbroken relationship to Country is irrefutable.

2.2 First Peoples and their source of authority

Traditional Owners, inheritors of the world's longest continuing culture, belong to, speak for, and carry responsibility for their Country – a sacred relationship, born at the first sunrise and sustained for over sixty thousand years, that can never be extinguished.

Traditional Owners survived and continue to live and practise Aboriginal Lore and Law on this land. Their authority comes from being part of and speaking for Country. From the time of the establishment of what is now known as Victoria, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons have come to live on the territory as First Peoples.

This Statewide Treaty finds authority in First Peoples on account of being First Peoples. The premise of this Statewide Treaty is recognition of the unique position of First Peoples in Victoria.

The UNDRIP recognises that the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples derive from their political, economic and social structures, and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies. Rights are inherent because they are not granted or delegated by the State.

These rights include the right to self-determination, which encompasses the collective right of Indigenous peoples to decide their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. In exercising their right to self-determination, Indigenous peoples have the right to autonomy in matters relating to their internal and local affairs.

The source of these rights derives from Indigenous peoples and their connection to Country.

3 Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority

Aboriginal Lore and Law are embedded within the dreaming, art, song, ceremony, dance and stories of First Peoples and exist as a body of authority that informs First Peoples' relationships, ways of doing business and governance structures.

Cultural Authority derives from Aboriginal Lore and Law and culture, passed down through generations and by the Ancestors. It includes rules about Eldership, and who has authority to speak for Country and regarding what decisions. Cultural Authority is held with humility and respect and carries a responsibility to Country and Community. It is relational, intergenerational, ancestral, matriarchal and patriarchal.

Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority are the foundation for Treaty-making for First Peoples. Acknowledging the diversity of communities, the meaning of Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority varies between communities, and its application within each Community is a matter for each Community to self-determine.

The practice and revitalisation of Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority has been upheld through Treaty negotiations that have resulted in this Statewide Treaty and will continue through further Statewide Treaties and Traditional Owner Treaties.

4 Who the State of Victoria is today

Victoria is many things. A mosaic of languages spoken in homes and across kitchen tables. A chorus of faiths, festivals and faces gathered in schoolyards, marketplaces and community halls. It is Wurundjeri Country, Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Gunditjmara Country – and many more. And it is also where new stories have taken root. Migrants, refugees, and people from every corner of the globe have come here seeking safety, belonging, and the chance to build a better life – to fulfil the promises they carry within, in a place that holds the possibility of meeting them. Each has added something to this place, and each carries a responsibility to help shape what it becomes.

This Treaty is not a mirror held up to one community – it is an invitation held out to all. It asks every Victorian, no matter their story, to walk forward with truth in their hearts and fairness in their stride. We are not the same, but we share the same soil, the same schools, the same streets. The strength of modern Victoria lies not in uniformity, but in unity – a willingness to face the past together, and to write a future that reflects the best of who we are.

5 Beginning of a Treaty era

This Statewide Treaty marks the dawn of a new era in Victoria – an era of Treaty-making that begins here but will carry forward for generations. It lays the foundation for the many Treaties still to come, with Traditional Owners and across the State.

These Treaties are not just agreements for today – they are a legacy for tomorrow. They will help build strong, resilient communities, deeply connected to Country and Culture, and create the conditions for younger generations from all backgrounds to grow, to lead, and to thrive.

The Parties intend that Gellung Warl, as established through the Statewide Treaty Act, gives effect to the right to self-determination and will play a central part in the democratic life of the State. It will build on the successes of the past, and grow and thrive as the representative structure for First Peoples.

This Statewide Treaty marks the beginning of a Treaty era.

6 Commitment to a renewed relationship

Under this Statewide Treaty, Gellung Warl and the State will embark on a renewed relationship informed by:

a) respect for First Peoples' relationship to Country, Culture and Community. This includes respect for First Peoples' cultural identity as custodians of the lands who have obligations to care for Country and waterways;

b) First Peoples' authority to self-determine their affairs and make Treaties in accordance with Aboriginal Lore and Law and as recognised in international law;

c) self-determination, including the process by which First Peoples strengthen their capacity to make and implement decisions that affect their lives, including through furthering cultural, social and economic strength;

d) recognition of the shared benefits of Treaty-making, including the opportunity to honour and centre First Peoples' culture in the life of Victoria and all Victorians;

e) equal partnership, mutual respect, reciprocity, transparency, and a commitment to justice, equality and healing for First Peoples, to create a stronger and more inclusive Victorian community; and

f) the guiding principles of the Treaty Process Act: self-determination and empowerment; fairness and equality; partnership and good faith; mutual benefit and sustainability; and transparency and accountability.

PART TWO
COMMITMENTS

7 Outcomes of Statewide Treaty negotiations

The Statewide Treaty Bill 2025 (Vic) introduced into Parliament was an outcome of Statewide Treaty negotiations. The Statewide Treaty Act states that an object of the Statewide Treaty Act is to give effect to the first Statewide Treaty.

7.1 Statewide Treaty Act

The Parties recognise that the objects of the Statewide Treaty Act are:

a) to give effect to the first Statewide Treaty;

b) to provide foundations for ongoing Statewide Treaty-making between Gellung Warl and the State, including to negotiate further functions and powers of Gellung Warl over time;

c) to advance the inherent rights and self-determination of First Peoples; and

d) to address the unacceptable disadvantage inflicted on First Peoples by the historic wrongs and ongoing injustices of colonisation and ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by First Peoples.

7.2 Gellung Warl

a) The Parties recognise that the Statewide Treaty Act establishes a First Peoples' representative and deliberative body, to be known as Gellung Warl. Gellung Warl established under the Act has evolved from the critical successes of the Assembly.

b) The Parties recognise that one of the main purposes of the Statewide Treaty Act is to establish Gellung Warl:

   i) to exercise decision-making powers by representing First Peoples in Victoria and making decisions in relation to First Peoples in Victoria;

   ii) to represent First Peoples in Statewide Treaty negotiations with the State, including undertaking Ongoing Statewide Treaty Negotiations;

   iii) to provide for ongoing truth-telling and healing;

   iv) to advise the Parliament and the State government in relation to matters that affect First Peoples; and

v) to hold the State government to account in relation to its commitments to, and the impact of its actions on, First Peoples.

c) The Parties recognise Part 2 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Gellung Warl – has the object of establishing Gellung Warl to advance the following objects:

i) to deliver improved and enduring outcomes for First Peoples;

ii) to be led by democratically elected representatives of First Peoples in a self-determining and deliberative way to enable First Peoples to freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural development and make decisions about their own futures;

iii) to form an enduring part of the democratic landscape of Victoria;

iv) to respect Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority and meet its cultural obligations and responsibilities as determined by First Peoples;

v) to be generative and flexible with the capacity to evolve over time;

vi) to be transparent and accountable in carrying out its functions and powers;

vii) to operate with integrity and be subject to appropriate oversight including by State integrity agencies such as IBAC and the Ombudsman; and

viii) to undertake any charitable work or charitable purposes.

d) The Parties recognise Part 3 of the Statewide Treaty Act – First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria – will advance the following objects:

i) to establish the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria within Gellung Warl to be a self-determined, democratically elected, enduring institution for the political representation of First Peoples; and

ii) the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is the central decision-making arm of Gellung Warl and remains answerable to First Peoples through its democratic nature and its cultural obligations and responsibilities.

e) The Parties recognise Part 4 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Powers to make substantive rules and internal rules – will advance the following objects:

i) to empower the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to make substantive rules to give effect to Gellung Warl's deliberative nature, including to make rules that affect First Peoples;

ii) to empower the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to make internal rules to give effect to its self-determining and generative nature, including in relation to its internal affairs; and

iii) to reflect the intention that Gellung Warl is generative and will continue to evolve as it takes on further powers, functions and responsibilities in relation to First Peoples through the ongoing Statewide Treaty-making process.

f) The Parties recognise Part 5 of the Statewide Treaty Act – First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria guidelines and standards and statutory appointments – will advance the following objects:

i) to provide other mechanisms for First Peoples to make decisions in relation to matters that affect First Peoples including:

A) making guidelines and standards;

B) making certain statutory appointments of First Peoples; and

ii) to reflect the intention that Gellung Warl is generative and will continue to evolve as it takes on further powers, functions and responsibilities in relation to First Peoples through the ongoing Statewide Treaty-making process.

g) The Parties recognise Part 7 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Addresses and reports to Parliament – will advance the following objects:

i) to empower the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to inform the Parliament on the effect of proposed legislation on First Peoples to support more effective laws as they relate to First Peoples and:

A) to address the significant disadvantage of First Peoples;

B) to support self-determined and better outcomes for First Peoples, benefitting the Victorian community as a whole; and

ii) to establish advisory and relational practices between Parliament and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria that supports the broader relationship established under Statewide Treaty-making.

h) The Parties recognise Part 8 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Representations and advice to State government – will advance the following objects:

i) to empower the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to inform the State government and State-funded service providers on matters affecting First Peoples:

A) to address the significant disadvantage of First Peoples;

B) to support self-determined and better outcomes for First Peoples, benefitting the Victorian community as a whole; and

C) to support the development and implementation of more effective policies and laws as they relate to First Peoples; and

ii) to establish advisory and relational practices between the executive government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria that supports the broader relationship established under Statewide Treaty-making.

i) The Parties recognise Part 9 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Nginma Ngainga Wara – will advance the following object:

i) to establish Nginma Ngainga Wara within Gellung Warl, governed by rules provided for in Part 4, in order to:

A) provide for greater accountability for the State's actions and impacts on First Peoples;

B) address the significant disadvantage of First Peoples;

C) support the enduring transformation of State government by identifying and recommending measures to eliminate institutional racism, discrimination and unconscious bias and to embed cultural safety; and

D) support self-determined and better outcomes for First Peoples, benefitting the Victorian community as a whole.

j) The Parties recognise Part 10 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna – will advance the following object:

i) to establish Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna within Gellung Warl, governed by rules provided for in Part 4, in order to:

A) provide for non-judicial and self-determined truth-telling across Victoria that is capable of being localised and place-based;

B) allow for the sharing and recording of experiences of historical events and the impact of colonisation on First Peoples; and

C) support the aim of enabling healing for First Peoples and healing between First Peoples and the broader community.

k) The Parties recognise Part 14 of the Statewide Treaty Act – Iarbargirrar gnuurtak tulkuuk (Community answerability) – will advance the following objects:

i) to provide for Gellung Warl to be democratically and publicly accountable and answerable to Community in the performance of its functions, powers and duties; and

ii) to require Gellung Warl to develop a Community Governance and Answerability Framework to:

A) ensure the operation of Gellung Warl will be guided by Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority in its answerability to Community; and

B) promote the fulfilment of its cultural obligations and responsibilities as determined by Community.

8 Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority and Gellung Warl

a) The Parties acknowledge this Statewide Treaty is an act of resurgence given Gellung Warl will draw from Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority when making and implementing collective decisions.

b) The Parties agree that:

i) the way in which Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority informs Gellung Warl in its governance and operation is a matter for Gellung Warl to determine;

ii) all parties will engage with Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority respectfully and in good faith;

iii) Aboriginal Lore and Law is respected as a substantive body of rules that informs First Peoples' agreement-making, decision-making and governance structures; and

iv) Gellung Warl may identify ways in which Aboriginal Lore, Law and Cultural Authority, including governance systems, kinship structures, cultural protocols and obligations, can be given effect to through this Statewide Treaty and further Treaties.

9 Nginma Ngainga Wara and Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna

a) The Parties agree that:

i) Part 9 of the Statewide Treaty Act establishes an independent oversight and accountability mechanism to be known as Nginma Ngainga Wara, as an arm of Gellung Warl;

ii) this establishment of Nginma Ngainga Wara implements the recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission (Yoorrook for Justice: recommendations 3 and 4) to establish an independent mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of First Peoples-related policies, programs and services and inquiry into the effectiveness of government administration and expenditure in relation to First Peoples; and

iii) the establishment of Nginma Ngainga Wara discharges the National Agreement on Closing the Gap commitment to establish an independent accountability mechanism, as supported by the Productivity Commission.

b) The Parties agree that:

i) Part 10 of the Statewide Treaty Act establishes an ongoing truth-telling mechanism, to be known as Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna, as an arm of Gellung Warl; and

ii) the establishment of Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna implements the recommendation of the Yoorrook Justice Commission (Yoorrook for Transformation Third Interim Report, Volume 1: recommendation 1) to establish an ongoing truth-telling body to continue to take First Peoples' testimony and build the public record.

10 Apology

a) The State acknowledges that the Yoorrook Justice Commission called for:

i) acknowledgment of the responsibility of predecessors for laws, policies, and practices that contributed to systemic injustices against Victorian First Peoples;

ii) official apologies to First Peoples in Victoria; and

iii) negotiation with the Aboriginal Representative Body regarding a form of words for official apologies to First Peoples individuals and communities (Yoorrook for Transformation Third Interim Report, Volume 1: recommendation 99).

b) The Parties agree to negotiating an official apology to First Peoples which will be made in Parliament.

11 Statewide Treaty reforms

a) The Parties agree to the following Statewide Treaty reforms as detailed in Schedule B:

i) physical and other recognition of Victoria as a Treaty State, including agreeing protocols in relation to the function of Gellung Warl to participate in the ceremonial life of the State, and for the use of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, and other physical markers of Treaty;

ii) inclusion of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum;

iii) Victorian public sector Treaty principles regarding a culturally capable workforce, including to support understanding of this Statewide Treaty;

iv) place naming of specified geographical features, to increase opportunities for the use of traditional or language place names;

v) a First Peoples' Infrastructure Fund; and

vi) First Peoples' programs and events, including the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

b) The Parties have also agreed to the following Statewide Treaty reforms in connection with Gellung Warl, given effect to in the Statewide Treaty Act:

i) establishing the Nginma Ngainga Wara;

ii) establishing the Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna;

iii) recognising that the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's functions may include, for example, establishing a First Peoples' Institute;

iv) empowering the making of substantive rules relating to how First Peoples' organisations in Victoria provide certificates evidencing that a person is accepted as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person by the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community;

v) empowering the making of guidelines and standards to facilitate the sharing and trading of water entitlements held by First Peoples or First Peoples' organisations;

vi) empowering the making of cultural safety guidelines and standards that may be voluntarily adopted by entities;

vii) appointments to First Peoples' designated roles in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and the Heritage Council;

viii) supporting a culturally capable workforce within the public sector and promoting an understanding of and adherence to Treaty principles through amendment of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic); and

ix) duties on the State to develop guidelines to ensure the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is consulted on matters specifically directed towards First Peoples during the development of any legislative proposal, statutory rule (not including a court rule) or policy, and participation in certain State decisions of importance to First Peoples, included in the minimum content for guidelines set out in Schedule C.

12 Data sharing

a) The State acknowledges that access to data is necessary for Gellung Warl to effectively perform its functions.

b) As required by the minimum content for guidelines set out in Schedule C, each Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Police must develop, in consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, written guidelines which, among other things provide for how:

   i) the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will access data and information reasonably required to perform its representation functions under Part 8 of the Statewide Treaty Act in a timely and accessible manner, and in accordance with section 140 of the Statewide Treaty Act and other applicable legislative data sharing provisions, restrictions and protections; and

   ii) departments will consult with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in relation to Indigenous Data, Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance, in accordance with section 140 of the Statewide Treaty Act and other applicable legislative data sharing provisions, restrictions and protections.

c) The State will support Nginma Ngainga Wara's performance of its functions through the use of data agreements as provided for by section 114 of the Statewide Treaty Act.

d) The Parties acknowledge that data sharing is subject to applicable laws including in relation to data protection and non-disclosure.

13 Resourcing

a) Gellung Warl is funded through a special appropriation in accordance with Part 12 of the Statewide Treaty Act for the functions and activities set out in the Statewide Treaty Act and this Statewide Treaty. The Parties understand this funding is intended to cover the performance of all Gellung Warl's functions and activities, including those of its arms, as set out in the Statewide Treaty Act and this Statewide Treaty.

b) The Statewide Treaty Act sets out the maximum amounts appropriated over a period of four financial years for use as capital expenditure by Gellung Warl which include the State's contributions towards premises for Gellung Warl and its arms.

c) Nothing prevents Gellung Warl from receiving funds from sources other than the special appropriation and other funding agreed under the Statewide Treaty Act.

d) The Statewide Treaty Act provides a review of funding arrangements will occur at least once every four years, unless Gellung Warl and the State agree a review is not needed. Any such review will be conducted jointly by Gellung Warl and the State and the Parties will, without limitation, agree:

i) the topics and scope of the review;

ii) information agreed to be shared by Gellung Warl and the State; and

iii) cost sharing arrangements if an independent reviewer is to be engaged.

e) The Self-Determination Fund will continue as a resource, independent from government, for Traditional Owners and First Peoples. The Parties commit and acknowledge as follows:

i) the Parties commit to the ongoing role of the Self-Determination Fund, which has the following purposes under section 36 of the Treaty Process Act:

A) supporting Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to have equal standing with the State in Treaty negotiations; and

B) providing a financial resource, independent from the State, that empowers Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to build capacity, wealth and prosperity;

ii) with respect to further funding for the Self-Determination Fund:

A) the Parties acknowledge that the Self-Determination Fund Agreement records their agreement that further funding will be negotiated to enable the Self-Determination Fund to further the purposes under section 36 of the Treaty Process Act;

B) the State acknowledges that the Self-Determination Fund Agreement records its agreement that such further funding will be adequate, having regard to the purposes under section 36 of the Treaty Process Act; and

C) the Parties commit to commencing negotiations in relation to further funding for the Self-Determination Fund in the future, while acknowledging this Statewide Treaty does not create an immediate funding obligation.

14 Further Statewide Treaties

a) The Parties agree that this Statewide Treaty is the first Statewide Treaty which provides the foundational agreement between the Parties for a renewed relationship between First Peoples and the State in Victoria through the establishment of Gellung Warl under the Statewide Treaty Act.

b) The Parties agree that Statewide Treaty is an ongoing process and have committed to continue to discuss all matters affecting First Peoples through Ongoing Statewide Treaty Negotiations to build upon this agreed foundation under Part C1 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework. Ongoing Statewide Treaty-making will enable Gellung Warl and the State to

continue to negotiate the transfer of decision-making, rule-making, advisory and other powers and functions from government to Gellung Warl to enable it to continue to work towards realising self-determination and better outcomes for First Peoples.

c) Within the ongoing Statewide Treaty-making process, the Parties intend that categories of Treaties may be negotiated, which may include any of the following:

   i) Statewide Treaty Chapters, meaning Treaties that cover multiple Treaty policy proposals and outcomes falling within a broad policy or portfolio subject area;

   ii) Statewide Treaty Outcomes, meaning Treaties that cover discrete Treaty policy proposals and specific outcomes on a particular subject matter; or

   iii) Foundational Statewide Treaties, meaning Treaties that cover additional structural or systemic matters or other matters that are foundational to the relationship between First Peoples and the State.

d) In particular, the Parties have identified 12 specific subject matters listed in clause 27.5 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, which may be agreed between Gellung Warl and the State to be the subjects of further Treaty Chapters, Outcomes or Foundational Treaties or any other agreements as appropriate. This is in addition to the subject matters set out in clause 27.2 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

e) Nothing in this clause limits the scope, structure or content of any Statewide Treaty that may be negotiated after the first Statewide Treaty or limits or prevents the negotiation of any Interim Agreement.

15 Interaction between Statewide Treaty and Traditional Owner Treaties

a) The Parties agree that Gellung Warl and the State will:

   i) recognise and respect Traditional Owners' authority over their Country, Culture and Communities; and

   ii) recognise and respect Traditional Owner Treaties and their decision-making bodies.

b) Further, Gellung Warl's First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will:

   i) work collaboratively with Traditional Owner groups in Victoria to collectively meet cultural obligations and realise self-determination for First Peoples, as recognised in UNDRIP; and

   ii) be made up of Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria.

16 The Act

a) The Statewide Treaty Act was introduced as a Bill into the Parliament as an outcome of Statewide Treaty negotiations between the Parties. The State government used its best endeavours to facilitate the passage of that Bill through the Parliament.

b) The Statewide Treaty Act is the first step towards realising the renewed relationship between First Peoples and the State reflected in this Statewide Treaty and to be reflected in further Treaty-making.

17 Procedural and administrative matters

The Parties agree to the matters set out in Schedule A.

Signatures and assent

In accordance with clause A3(b)(i)(B) and (ii), the Parties signify their assent to the Treaty:

Djaran Murray-Jackson
Dja Dja Wurrung, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Dhudhuroa, Waywurru, Barapa Barapa, Wergaia, Wiradjuri
Reserved Seat holder representing Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

Melissa Jones
Latje Latje, Jupagulk
Reserved Seat holder representing First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation

Ngarra Murray
Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Dhudhuroa and Dja Dja Wurrung
Co-chair of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
Member for the Metropolitan region

Jacinta Chaplin
Wadi Wadi and Wamba Wamba
Member for the North West region

Jason Kelly
Mutthi Mutthi and Wamba Wamba
Member for the North West region

Jacinta Allan
Premier of Victoria

Lowana Moore
Wamba Wamba
Reserved Seat Holder for Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation

Rodney Carter
Dja Dja Wurrung
Member for the North West region

Aunty Tracey Evans
Gunditjmara and Bundjalung
Member for the Metropolitan region

Indi Clarke
Wemba Wemba, Mutti Mutti, Boon Wurrung, Trawlwoolway and Lardil
Member for the Metropolitan region

Aunty Donna Wright
Gunditjmara, Kerrupmara, Nillaan-Gunditj, Djab Wurrung, Kamilaroi
Reserved Seat holder representing Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Uncle Bryon Powell
Wadawurrung
Reserved Seat holder representing Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Sheree Lowe
Gunditjmara, Peek Whurrung, Kirrae Whurrung, Djab Wurrung
Member for the South West region

Barry Firebrace-Briggs
Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wemba, Dja Dja Wurrung and Wurundjeri
Member for the Metropolitan region

Lisa Briggs
Gunditjmara
Member for the Metropolitan region

Jordan Edwards
Gunditjmara, Waddawurrung and Arrernte
Member for the South West region

Uncle Michael "Mookeye" Bell
Gunditjmara, Boandik
Member for the South West region

Troy Austin
Gunditjmara
Member for the Metropolitan region

Rueben Berg
Gunditjmara
Co-chair of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
Reserved Seat holder representing Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

Belinda Briggs
Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Wurundjeri, Ngiyampaa
Member for the North East region

Natalie Hutchins
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples

Levi Power
Dhulanyagan clan of the Yorta Yorta Nation
Member for the North East region

Nicole Atkinson
Bangerang, Gunditjmara
Member for the North East region

Aunty Esme Bamblett
Bangerang, Taungurung and Wiradjuri
Member for the Metropolitan region

Gnerick Gnerick Gary Murray
Dhudhuroa, Yorta Yorta, Barapa Barapa, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wamba Wemba, Wergaia, Wiradjeri and Waywurru
Member for the Metropolitan region

Kaley Nicholson
Barapa Barapa, Wemba Wemba, Yorta Yorta, Bunurong/Boonwurrung, Mutthi Mutthi, Wiradjuri, Latji Latji
Reserved Seat holder representing Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation

Zoe Upton
Bunurong, Trawoolway
Reserved Seat Holder representing Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Uncle Andrew Gardiner
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
Reserved Seat holder representing the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Alister Thorpe
Gunai, Yorta Yorta, Gunditjmara and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Member for the Metropolitan region

Alice Pepper
Gunnai, Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, Gunditjmara and Arrernte
Member for the South East region

Troy McDonald
Gunaikurnai, Gunditjmara
Reserved Seat holder representing Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

Nerita Waight
Yorta Yorta and Narrandjeri
Member for the Metropolitan region

Brian Stevens
Gunai
Member for the South East region

Peter Douglas Hood
Kurnai
Member for the South East region

SCHEDULE A

PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A1 Dispute resolution

a) The process for the resolution of disputes between the Parties arising under or in connection with this Statewide Treaty will be the process set out in Part I of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, which also provides for the Treaty Authority's role in dispute resolution between the Parties, adapted as necessary and as agreed by Gellung Warl and the State.

b) This includes disputes in relation to:

   i) the implementation of this Statewide Treaty;

   ii) the interpretation of this Statewide Treaty;

   iii) the funding of this Statewide Treaty; and

   iv) alleged non-fulfillment of the commitments under this Statewide Treaty.

A2 Reporting and review

a) Annual reporting requirements are set out in the Part 8 of the Treaty Process Act for both Gellung Warl and the State and Part 12 of the Statewide Treaty Act for Gellung Warl. In addition to these annual reporting requirements, the Parties must also include in their annual reports:

   i) the status of implementation of this Statewide Treaty;

   ii) activities undertaken by the Parties in fulfilling their commitments under this Statewide Treaty;

   iii) key indicators for measuring and reporting on outcomes resulting from this Statewide Treaty; and

   iv) any other information in relation to this Statewide Treaty that the Parties consider relevant.

b) The Parties agree that this Statewide Treaty will be reviewed every five years by an independent panel appointed by Gellung Warl and the State by agreement. The composition of the Panel will be no more than three persons and must comprise of at least two First Peoples.

c) The purpose of this review is to support, strengthen and advance the ongoing Statewide Treaty-making process.

d) Each review must evaluate:

   i) Gellung Warl and the State's compliance with the commitments in this Statewide Treaty, with particular consideration to be given to the State's compliance with its duty to consult and commitment to engage with Gellung Warl, Nginma Ngainga Wara and Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna in good faith in respect of timeliness and access to data;

   ii) outcomes delivered through this Statewide Treaty and the ongoing Statewide Treaty-making process; and

   iii) any other matters jointly referred by Gellung Warl and the State to the Panel.

e) Gellung Warl and the State can agree that a review is not needed or deferred to a later date.

f) Gellung Warl and the State must respond to the review, no later than six months after the completion of the review, including by modifying the implementation approach agreed under clause A4 of Schedule A, as appropriate.

A3 Commencement and operation

a) The Parties will signify their assent to this Statewide Treaty in accordance with clause 27(a)(i) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

b) The Parties will signify their assent to this Statewide Treaty as follows:

   i) by the First Peoples' Representative Body through:

      A) the cultural practices of ceremony, song, dance and art; and

      B) the signatures of the Members of the First Peoples' Representative Body; and

   ii) by the State through the signatures of the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples and the Premier.

c) This Statewide Treaty commences operation on the day the Treaty Authority publishes a statement which records that the Treaty has been formally agreed in accordance with clause 27(a)(iii) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

d) The Parties will mark the commencement of this Statewide Treaty by a formal ceremony, incorporating cultural practices of ceremony, song, dance and art.

A4 Implementation

a) The Parties will jointly develop an implementation approach for how they will fulfil their commitments under this Statewide Treaty. This will cover matters such as:

   i) steps the Parties will take to meet their commitments under this Statewide Treaty, who has responsibility for them and the relevant timeframes;

   ii) measures and strategies for implementing the approach across government and for keeping Community informed;

   iii) review of the implementation approach, including after any review by the Panel under clause A2 of Schedule A; and

   iv) the persons responsible from each Party for coordinating and delivering the implementation approach, to ensure clear accountability.

b) The Parties will endeavour to finalise their implementation approach within six months of the formalisation of this Statewide Treaty, or within such other timeframe agreed between them.

A5 Variation and amendment

a) This Statewide Treaty may be amended by the following process:

   i) a Party may notify the other Party of any proposed amendment;

   ii) if a Party wishes to propose an amendment to this Statewide Treaty, before proceeding with an amendment, the Parties will attempt to find other means of satisfying the interests of the Party proposing the amendment;

   iii) following negotiation on the proposed amendment, any amendments must be agreed by the Parties in writing;

   iv) the Treaty Authority will be notified of the agreed amendment in a form agreed by the Parties; and

   v) a consolidated amended version of this Statewide Treaty must be provided to the Treaty Authority for inclusion on the public register of formalised Treaties maintained under clause 34.3 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

A6 Definitions

Aboriginal Representative Body means the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Ltd declared to be the Aboriginal Representative Body under section 11 of the Treaty Process Act or any subsequent body declared or provided by law to be the Aboriginal Representative Body, including Gellung Warl.

Assembly means the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Ltd.

First Peoples means:

a) Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria; and

b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons who are living in the place now known as Victoria.

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria means the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria established by section 17 of the Statewide Treaty Act.

First Peoples' Representative Body is the Aboriginal Representative Body which has been confirmed by the Treaty Authority as the First Peoples' Representative Body under Part C of the Treaty Negotiation Framework and any subsequent body declared or provided by law to be the First Peoples' Representative Body, including Gellung Warl.

Gellung Warl means Gellung Warl established by section 10 of the Statewide Treaty Act.

Indigenous Data as endorsed by delegates at the 2018 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit, refers to information or knowledge, in any format or medium, which is about and may affect First Peoples both collectively and individually.

Indigenous Data Governance as endorsed by delegates at the 2018 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit, refers to the right of First Peoples to autonomously decide what, how, and why Indigenous Data is collected, accessed, disclosed and used. It ensures that data on or about First Peoples reflects First Peoples' priorities, values, cultures, worldviews, and diversity.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty as endorsed by delegates at the 2018 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit, refers to the rights of First Peoples to exercise ownership over Indigenous Data. Ownership of Indigenous Data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination, and reuse of Indigenous Data.

Nginma Ngainga Wara means Nginma Ngainga Wara, as an arm of Gellung Warl, established by section 92 of the Statewide Treaty Act.

Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna means Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna, as an arm of Gellung Warl, established by section 118 of the Statewide Treaty Act.

Ongoing Statewide Treaty Negotiations has the meaning given to it in the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

Panel means the panel appointed by Gellung Warl and the State in accordance with clause A2 of Schedule A.

Self-Determination Fund means the self-determination fund referred to in section 35 of the Treaty Process Act.

Statewide Treaty means this Statewide Treaty negotiated between the First Peoples' Representative Body and the State under Part E of this Treaty Negotiation Framework, unless contrary intention appears.

Statewide Treaty Act or Act means the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic).

Traditional Owner has the meaning given by section 3 of the Treaty Process Act, as applied by the relevant First Peoples having regard to self-determination.

Traditional Owner Treaties means a Treaty negotiated between a First Peoples' Treaty Delegation and the State under Part E of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

Treaty means any one or more of the Statewide Treaty or Traditional Owner Treaties, as the context requires.

Treaty Authority means the Treaty Authority established by agreement between the Parties under section 27 of the Treaty Process Act.

Treaty Negotiation Framework means the Treaty Negotiation Framework as between the Parties dated 20 October 2022, including if and as amended.

Treaty Process Act means the *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018* (Vic).

UNDRIP means the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 September 2007.

Yoorrook Justice Commission means the Royal Commission known as the Yoorrook Justice Commission established under the *Inquiries Act 2014* (Vic) on 12 May 2021.

A7 Interpretation

a) In this Statewide Treaty, and unless the context indicates otherwise:

i) this Statewide Treaty should be interpreted in a way that is consistent with the Treaty Process Act and the Statewide Treaty Act. In the event of any conflict between the Treaty Process Act or the Statewide Treaty Act and this Statewide Treaty, the Treaty Process Act or the Statewide Treaty Act prevails;

ii) this Statewide Treaty should be interpreted by reference to UNDRIP, except to the extent of any inconsistency with the Treaty Process Act, Statewide Treaty Act and applicable laws of the State and the Commonwealth;

iii) headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;

iv) a reference to a document (including this Statewide Treaty) is to that document as varied, novated, ratified or replaced from time to time; and

v) a reference to this Statewide Treaty and any other document includes all schedules, exhibits, attachments and annexures to it.

SCHEDULE B

IMMEDIATE STATEWIDE TREATY REFORMS

B1 Physical and other recognition of Victoria as a Treaty State, including agreeing protocols in relation to the function of Gellung Warl to participate in the ceremonial life of the State, and for the use of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, and other physical markers of Treaty

a) The Parties agree that:

i) Gellung Warl and the State will work together with the Parliament of Victoria, subject to the authority of the Presiding Officers of Parliament under the *Parliamentary Precincts Act 2001* (Vic) and subject to any other powers held by Parliament, to establish:

A) a dedicated, named room within Victoria's Parliament House where Gellung Warl can carry out its functions under the Statewide Treaty Act; and

B) a physical marker recognising this Statewide Treaty within the Parliament House precinct and accessible to the public;

ii) the responsible Minister will support the provision of access to Parliament House for relevant First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria members and staff;

iii) the State will publish statements recognising this Statewide Treaty on Victorian Government department websites and make other appropriate public communications;

iv) subject to (A) below, the State will maintain its policy that the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flag should be flown on or adjacent to Victorian Government buildings where three or more flagpoles are present;

A) the State's policy and/or commitments on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are specified matters for the consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in the relevant Guidelines as described at clauses (f)(i) and (f)(ii) of Schedule C;

v) the Preamble to this Statewide Treaty may be used as a physical marker, for example in Victorian Government buildings;

   A) to facilitate this, the Parties may co-design and agree guidelines relating to the display of the Preamble to Statewide Treaty; and

vi) the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's participation in the ceremonial life of the State will be recognised through a co-designed and agreed Joint Ceremony and Event Protocol (Protocol). The Protocol may be used by the State to strengthen the role of First Peoples' culture and ceremony in State symbols and State-run public events, and events led by Gellung Warl including Statewide Treaty celebrations and other significant Treaty events.

B2 Inclusion of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum

a) The Parties agree that, subject to the powers of the responsible Minister under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic):

i) the State will include truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Version 2.0 (Victorian Curriculum F-10, meaning the Victorian Curriculum for the years Foundation to Year 10):

A) the methods by which truth-telling is included in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 will be co-designed between Gellung Warl, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) and the responsible department, subject to approval by the responsible Minister (the relevant bodies);

ii) the State will use the Yoorrook Justice Commission Official Public Record as a resource to support the implementation of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10;

iii) the State will include truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and the use of the Official Public Record as a resource for any school that delivers the Victorian Curriculum F-10;

iv) the State will develop reporting mechanisms as part of its implementation of the inclusion of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and use of the Official Public Record as a resource. These mechanisms will include but are not limited to:

A) incorporating truth-telling into existing annual reporting processes undertaken by the responsible department, the VCAA and the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority;

B) establishing truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 as a policy requirement of the responsible department, against which the existing Victorian Government school review process can monitor compliance;

C) future monitoring, compliance and implementation of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and use of the Official Public Record as a resource by any Victorian Government school;

D) by agreement with the relevant bodies, future monitoring, reporting and implementation of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and use of the Official Public Record as a resource by any Victorian non-Government school that delivers the Victorian Curriculum F-10; and

v) Gellung Warl, VAEAI and VCAA will co-design curriculum resources, related to the Official Public Record, subject to approval by the responsible Minister.

B3 Victorian public sector Treaty principles regarding a culturally capable workforce, including to support understanding of this Statewide Treaty

a) The Parties agree that:

i) amendments to the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic) are made as described at Part 21, sections 284-285 of the Statewide Treaty Act;

ii) in implementing section 8A of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic), the State commits to develop a model performance goal or obligation for public service body Heads and special body Heads, designed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in consultation with the Victorian Public Sector Commission;

iii) the State will develop public reporting mechanisms against section 285 (c) of the Statewide Treaty Act; and

iv) the State will engage with Gellung Warl as a key stakeholder on future work on cultural competency and public sector values across the Victorian Public Service:

A) the State's commitments to develop cultural competency frameworks for the Victorian public service and implement work on public sector values in relation to section 8A of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic) are specified matters for the consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in the relevant guidelines as described at clauses (f)(iii) and (iv) of Schedule C.

B4 Place naming of specified geographical features, to increase opportunities for the use of traditional or language place names

a) The Parties agree that:

i) the Parties will work together to propose guidelines to be made under section 5 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic) amending the 'Naming rules for place in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022' (the Rules) to specify that Gellung Warl is a 'naming authority' for specified geographic features. Subject to the powers of the responsible Minister under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic), the responsible Minister will recommend those further guidelines to the Governor in Council;

ii) the specified geographic features will be National and State parks, waterways and waterfalls on State-controlled land (Feature or Features). Other specified geographic features can be included where agreed by the State and Gellung Warl;

iii) where a naming proposal for a Feature is developed by Gellung Warl the local government authority and/or relevant State agency responsible for the land on which the Feature is located will continue to lead the community consultation for the proposal as required under the Rules;

iv) Gellung Warl will undertake its functions as a naming authority in accordance with and within the existing legal and regulatory frameworks for place naming in Victoria, ensuring compliance with the Rules for any naming proposals it puts forward;

v) Gellung Warl will develop an annual priority list of names to be agreed with the State, limited to those Features for which Gellung Warl is a naming authority;

vi) the Parties will work together to propose appropriate changes and updates to the Rules to accompany Gellung Warl becoming a naming authority, while retaining the right of the Registrar to determine the geographic boundary of any Feature. Subject to the powers of the responsible Minister under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic), the responsible Minister will recommend any appropriate changes to the Rules to the Governor in Council;

vii) Gellung Warl may put forward naming proposals that a Feature be known exclusively by a First Peoples' language name;

viii) Gellung Warl may, jointly with the other relevant naming authority for a Feature, propose a dual name for that Feature;

ix) where Gellung Warl puts forward a re-naming proposal for a Feature based on the proposed removal of an offensive name, the proposal must provide supporting evidence that the Feature's pre-existing name is offensive to First Peoples, and propose re-naming, rather than a dual name, for the Feature;

x) the role of the Registrar of Geographic Names (Registrar) remains unchanged by Gellung Warl becoming a naming authority;

xi) the role of the responsible Minister is unchanged by Gellung Warl becoming a naming authority, and the responsible Minister retains authority to intervene and name a place in certain circumstances under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic);

xii) the State will engage with Gellung Warl when a Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee is being established under section 12 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic) relating to a Feature for which Gellung Warl is a naming authority, and when the panel of eligible appointees to the Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee is being established under section 14 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic).

A) the State's commitments on consultation on establishment of Geographic Place Names Advisory Committees and establishment of a panel of eligible appointees are specified matters for the consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in the relevant guidelines as described at clauses (f)(v) and (f)(vi) of Schedule C; and

xiii) the responsible department will lead the preparation of a detailed implementation and communications plan that sets out the day-to-day relationship, including Gellung Warl's role in community consultations regarding a name Gellung Warl has proposed, between Gellung Warl, Victorian Traditional Owners, local councils and State agencies and the Registrar.

B5 A First Peoples' Infrastructure Fund

a) The Parties agree that:

i) Gellung Warl will establish and operate a new First Peoples' Infrastructure Fund (Infrastructure Fund) from 1 July 2026 onwards;

ii) Gellung Warl will operate the Infrastructure Fund to support Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), as defined under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, with maintenance, minor building works, capital works, infrastructure upgrades and related project planning;

iii) the Infrastructure Fund will be administered in accordance with guidelines developed by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in line with its larbargirrar gnuurtak tulkuuk (community answerability) principles and best practice financial management principles;

iv) the Infrastructure Fund will supersede the State's Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program (ACIP);

v) from 1 July 2026, the State will no longer offer new grants under the ACIP; and

vi) access to funding from the Infrastructure Fund will not impact the eligibility of ACCOs and other First Peoples' organisations to seek funding under other Victorian Government infrastructure grant programs.

B6 First Peoples' programs and events, including the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll

a) The Parties agree that:

i) the Department of Premier and Cabinet's program of First Peoples' Awards and Events (Events Program) will be transferred to Gellung Warl from 1 July 2026 onwards;

ii) the Events Program for the purposes of the transfer comprises:

A) the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll;

B) the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service;

C) the Ricci Marks Awards; and

D) responsibility for funding the Victorian NAIDOC Committee to deliver its annual program of NAIDOC Week events (excluding the NAIDOC State Reception);

iii) it is intended that Gellung Warl will at a minimum:

A) fund the Victorian NAIDOC Committee to deliver its annual program of NAIDOC Week events;

B) hold awards and events annually to recognise First Peoples' excellence across Victoria, and the success of First Peoples youth; and

C) honour First Peoples' contributions to military service annually on 31 May;

iv) the Events Program will continue to honour the contributions of First Peoples to the State of Victoria;

v) a plan to transfer responsibility for the Events Program from the State to Gellung Warl to avoid any delay or gap in delivery of the Events Program will be jointly developed;

vi) Gellung Warl may invite State representatives to attend any of the programs and events outlined in this schedule, to continue State honouring of First Peoples through the Events Program; and

vii) the State will continue to administer and hold budgetary responsibility for the NAIDOC State Reception.

SCHEDULE C

MINIMUM CONTENT FOR GUIDELINES

a) Section 88(1) of the Statewide Treaty Act requires that each Secretary must develop, in consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, written guidelines for:

   i) any matters specified in the Statewide Treaty; and

   ii) the manner of consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria during the development of any legislative proposal, statutory rule (not including a court rule) or policy that is specifically directed to First Peoples.

b) Section 88(2) of the Statewide Treaty Act requires that the Chief Commissioner of Police must develop, in consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, written guidelines for:

   i) any matters specified in the Statewide Treaty; and

   ii) the manner of consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria during the development of any policy that is specifically directed to First Peoples.

c) The Parties acknowledge that in accordance with section 88(3) of the Statewide Treaty Act, a failure to develop guidelines or to comply with the guidelines does not, of itself:

   i) affect the validity or operation of any Act or statutory instrument or any provision of an Act or statutory instrument; and

   ii) affect the validity of any act or decision or provide grounds for review of any act or decision.

d) The Parties acknowledge that each Secretary (or the Chief Commissioner of Police) will include matters in the guidelines only to the extent relevant to the particular Department to which the guidelines relate, or to Victoria Police, as the case may be.

e) The Parties agree that the guidelines must:

   i) promote Gellung Warl's capacity to:

      A) inform government policy, practice and decisions affecting First Peoples;

      B) improve laws and policies specifically directed towards First Peoples and the way they are implemented;

C) align government systems to give effect to First Peoples' self-determination and more effectively meet First Peoples' needs and circumstances; and

D) develop and maintain an effective and meaningful dialogue with each Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Police.

ii) provide for consultation to be effective and meaningful;

iii) provide for how the relevant Department, and/or Minister in consultation with the relevant Department and Secretary, or Victoria Police will engage with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in relation to the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's representation functions under Part 8 of the Act that relate to the relevant Department or Minister or Victoria Police;

iv) provide for early notification and timely consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when developing or reviewing a legislative proposal, statutory rule (not including a court rule) or policy that is specifically directed at First Peoples;

v) provide for consultation to occur at an early stage in the planning, design or decision-making process for legislative proposals, statutory rules (not including a court rule) and policies specifically directed at First Peoples, and to accommodate consideration of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's representations;

vi) provide for guidance on how to identify matters that are specifically directed towards First Peoples and examples of matters that are specifically directed towards First Peoples where consultation will be required;

vii) provide for how the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will access data and information reasonably required to perform its representation functions under Part 8 of the Statewide Treaty Act in a timely and accessible manner, and in accordance with section 140 of the Act and other applicable legislative data sharing provisions, restrictions and protections;

viii) provide for how departments will consult with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in relation to Indigenous Data, Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance, in accordance with section 140 of the Act and other applicable legislative data sharing provisions, restrictions and protections;

ix) provide processes that clarify the relationships between the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the State and those Aboriginal governance structures established by the State, including supporting the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to lead engagement with Aboriginal governance structures, in relation to the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria's relevant representation powers and functions under Part 8 of the Act;

x) provide for how the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is to be notified of how its representations have been taken into account and the relevant outcome with respect to the matters consulted on;

xi) provide for consultation procedures for the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to provide general advice to those identified boards, entities and strategies detailed in this schedule; and

xii) provide for any other measures to promote data sharing with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in accordance with section 140 of the Act and other applicable legislative data sharing provisions, restrictions and protections.

f) The Parties acknowledge that in addition to the above, the following items specified in Schedule B also form part of the minimum content for guidelines:

i) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when the State amends its policy on use of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flags;

ii) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when the State amends any commitment to fly the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flags, irrespective of the number of flagpoles;

iii) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when the State develops cultural competency frameworks applicable to the broader Victorian Public Service;

iv) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when the State implements work on section 8A of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic) in relation to public sector values for the Victorian Public Service;

v) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when a Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee is being established under section 12 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic) relating to the specified geographic features for which Gellung Warl is a naming authority; and

vi) provide for consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria when the panel of eligible appointees to the Geographic Place Names Advisory Committee is being established under section 14 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Vic).

g) The Parties have identified boards, entities and strategies specified in this schedule where provision of general advice by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria supports the enduring transformation of the State to:

i) identify and eliminate institutional racism, discrimination and unconscious bias and to embed cultural safety in its operation and provision of services; and

ii) support self-determined and better outcomes for First Peoples, benefitting the Victorian community as a whole.

h) The Parties agree that in developing the guidelines, the relevant Secretary will include processes by which the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria may, on matters affecting First Peoples, provide general advice in relation to the boards and entities (including in relation to the membership of boards and entities) and strategies described below. It is not intended for this advice to relate to whether a specific person or persons should be appointed or a specific strategy made:

i) the constitution of the Aboriginal division of the Youth Parole Board pursuant to section 596 of the *Youth Justice Act 2024* (Vic);

ii) the appointment of Aboriginal Elders or respected persons for the purpose of performing functions in relation to the Koori Court Division of the County Court pursuant to section 22A(1) of the *County Court Act 1958* (Vic);

iii) preparation of a strategy for the arts and creative industries pursuant to section 12 of the *Creative Victoria Act 2017* (Vic) to support the requirement at section 12(2)(v) that a strategy for the arts and creative industries must "support and promote the practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Victoria";

iv) the requirement that appointments to the Board of Alpine Resorts Victoria must ensure that collectively, the directors have skills, qualification and experience in relation to "cultural knowledge and authority arising from experience as a traditional owner of land in alpine resorts" pursuant to section 16(d) of the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997* (Vic);

v) the requirement that appointments to the Victorian Fisheries Authority Board pursuant to section 21 of the *Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016* (Vic) must ensure that collectively, the directors have skills, qualification, knowledge and experience in relation to "Aboriginal culture and identity as it relates to fishing and fisheries" pursuant to section 22(1)(f) of the Act;

vi) the requirement that Aboriginal persons are represented in appointment of members to the Homes Victoria Advisory Board pursuant to section 11D(3) of the *Housing Act 1983* (Vic);

vii) the requirement that in making a recommendation for appointment of members to a "regional mental health and wellbeing board" the Minister must have regard to the need for members to collectively have understanding and experience of "the diverse needs of Aboriginal communities, the importance of self-determination, the importance of connection to culture, family, community and Country and the importance of culturally responsive, safe and appropriate services", pursuant to section 312(3)(b)(i) of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022* (Vic);

viii) the requirement that when a Minister makes a recommendation to the Governor in Council to appoint a member to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, they have regard for the need for the Council to collectively have experience, skills

and knowledge in relation to "issues relating to indigenous peoples" pursuant to section 8(2)(f) of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* (Vic);

ix) the requirement that in appointing a person as a member of the Game Management Authority, the Minister must attempt to ensure that collectively the members of the Authority have skills, experience or knowledge relating to "Aboriginal culture and identity as they relate to game hunting and game management", pursuant to section 10(3)(b) of the *Game Management Authority Act 2014* (Vic);

x) procedures of the Koori Court Division of the County Court pursuant to sections 4A (Establishment of Koori Court Division) and 4EA (Certain matters may be dealt with by Koori Court Division only in certain venues) of the *County Court Act 1958* (Vic);

xi) the requirement that the Secretary of the responsible department "must work with Aboriginal communities to establish a Victorian Aboriginal Child Wellbeing Charter" pursuant to section 7 of the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic);

xii) the requirement that in determining any financial assistance to a public health service from money administered by the Secretary (or terms and conditions on that financial assistance), consideration must be given to whether it has met the objectives, priorities and key performance outcomes specified in its statement of priorities pursuant to section 18(ec) of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic), where those objectives, priorities and key performance outcomes were specifically directed towards First Peoples health;

xiii) the content of the knowledge and experience requirements for the appointment of an additional Commissioner pursuant to section 12 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012* (Vic) where the additional Commissioner is to be appointed as the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People;

xiv) the requirement that the Minister or the Secretary must consult, as the case requires, work and collaborate on justice-related issues with the prescribed representatives of the Aboriginal community for the purposes set out in, and, pursuant to section 26 of the *Youth Justice Act 2024* (Vic);

xv) the requirement that the Minister must have regard, in making a recommendation for appointment to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, the need for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commissioner to have understanding and experience of "the diverse needs of Aboriginal communities, the importance of self-determination, the importance of connection to culture, family, community and Country and the importance of culturally responsive, safe and appropriate services", pursuant to section 420 of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022* (Vic);

xvi) the Coronial Council of Victoria pursuant to section 111 of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic);

xvii) the Public Records Advisory Council pursuant to section 4 of the *Public Records Act 1973* (Vic);

xviii) water corporations' boards of directors pursuant to section 95 of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic);

xix) the Victorian Skills Authority Advisory Board;

xx) the Adult Parole Board pursuant to section 61 of the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic);

xxi) Parks Victoria pursuant to section 16 of the *Parks Victoria Act 2018* (Vic);

xxii) the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) pursuant to section 21 of the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Vic);

xxiii) the Museums Board of Victoria pursuant to section 11 of the *Museums Act 1983* (Vic);

xxiv) the Victorian Arts Centre Trust pursuant to section 8 of the *Victorian Arts Centre Act 1979* (Vic);

xxv) the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority pursuant to section 2.5.6 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic);

xxvi) Sustainability Victoria pursuant to section 9 of the *Sustainability Victoria Act 2005* (Vic);

xxvii) the Melbourne Arts Precincts Corporation, pursuant to section 25 of the *State Owned Enterprises Act 1992* (Vic);

xxviii) the Sentencing Advisory Council pursuant to section 108F of the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic);

xxix) the Country Fire Authority pursuant to section 7 of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* (Vic);

xxx) the Victoria Law Foundation pursuant to section 7 of the *Victoria Law Foundation Act 2009* (Vic);

xxxi) the Post Sentence Authority pursuant to section 293 of the *Serious Offenders Act 2018* (Vic);

xxxii) the Victorian Law Reform Commission pursuant to section 7 of the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000* (Vic);

xxxiii) the National Parks Advisory Council pursuant to section 10 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic);

xxxiv) Catchment Management Authority Boards pursuant to section 15 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic);

xxxv) Commissioners of the Water Holder pursuant to section 33DF of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic);

xxxvi) the Environment Protection Authority Governing Board pursuant to section 361 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic);

xxxvii) the Victorian Children's Council pursuant to section 9 of the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic);

xxxviii) the board of Development Victoria pursuant to the *Development Victoria Act 2003* (Vic);

xxxix) the governing Councils of Victorian universities;

xl) the content of the knowledge requirements for the appointment of the Victorian Legal Services Commissioner pursuant to section 51 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic);

xli) the content of the expertise requirements for the appointment of the Emergency Management Commissioner pursuant to section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (Vic);

xlii) the directorship of public hospital boards pursuant to section 33, the directorship of boards of each public health service pursuant to section 65T, the directorship of the board of each multi-purpose service pursuant to section 115E of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic);

xliii) where the Minister approves, approves with amendments or refuses to approve a Public Health Service's Strategic Plan pursuant to section 65ZF(3) of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic);

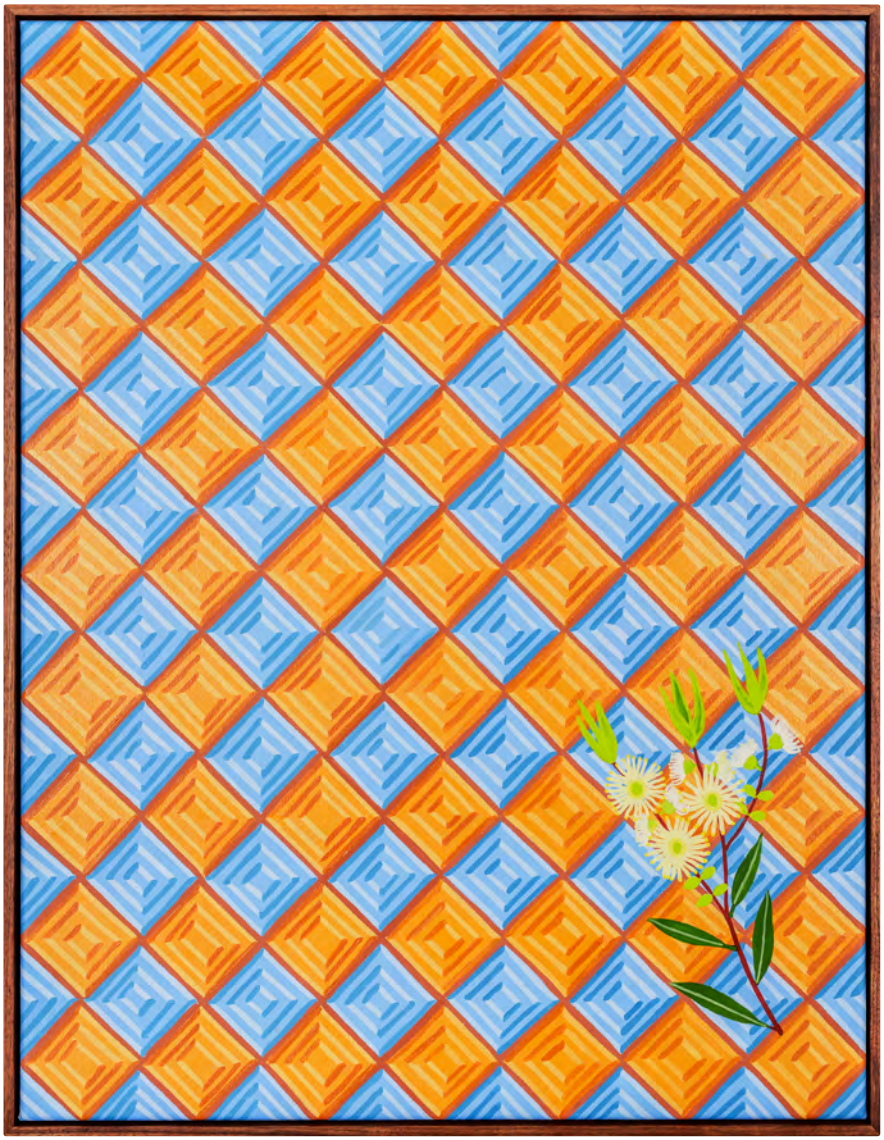
xliv) the preparation of the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan pursuant to section 49 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (*Vic);

xlv) the establishment of panels pursuant to section 153 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic);

xlvi) the establishment of Advisory Committees pursuant to section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic); and

xlvii) the preparation of a statement of priorities pursuant to section 40G of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic).

ARTWORK STORIES



Metro

by Stacey Edwards
(Taungurung, Boon Wurrung)

The geometric design of the diamonds was traditionally used by the Kulin nations. This is contemporary spin on the diamonds. Blue represents the waterways whilst burnt orange represents the land. The mana gum leaves represent ceremony and healing. The smoking ceremony cleanses the past and welcomes the new. The mana gum blossom depicts self-determination, resilience and strength.

North East

by John Patten
(Yorta Yorta (Dhulinyagan), Dhudhuroa, Bundjalung)

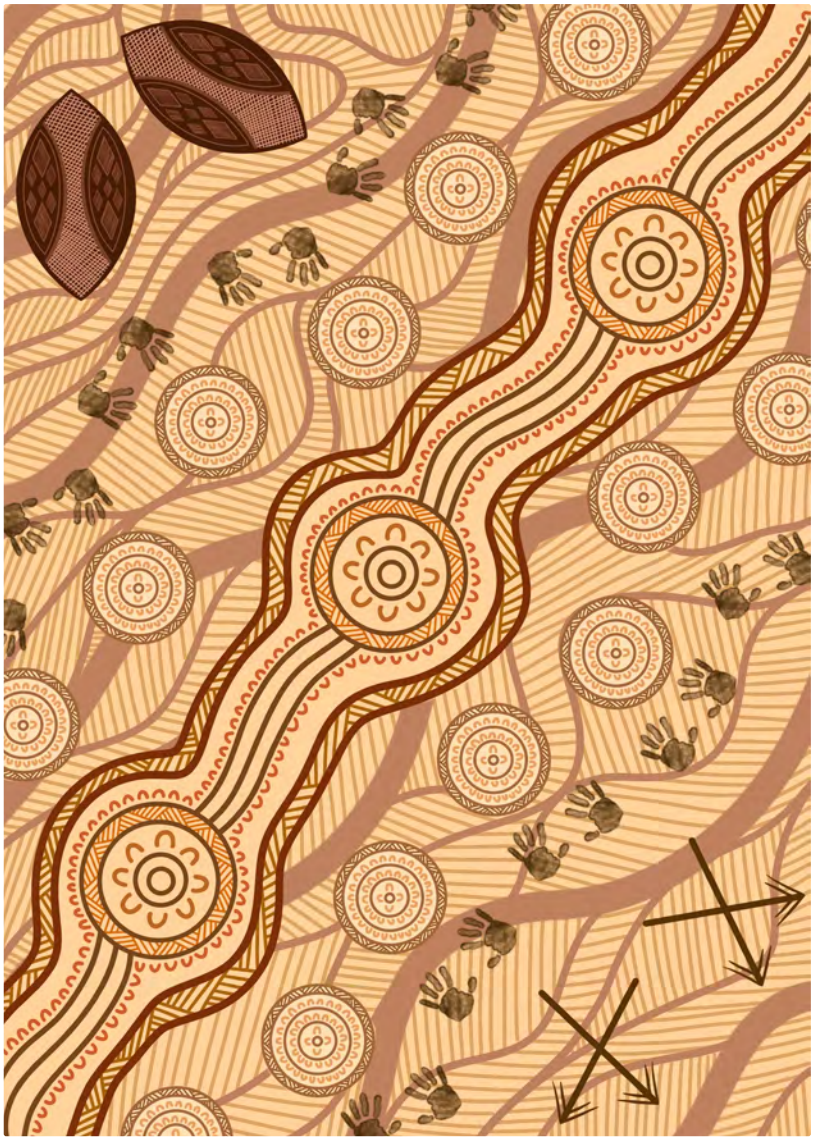
Treaty Giants celebrates our Old People – our Elders who have sacrificed so much, in order for us to be where we are now.

North West

Dindi Thanggi: River Country
by Jade Kennedy
(Tatti-Tatti and Mutti-Mutti)

The Murray River is our life source, and important part of our future. It's sustained the land, the trees, the vegetation and all the creatures within the river and the lakes and the lagoons. Along with the Kuli, 'people', that live, travel, gather and create.

Our song lines lead to the corroboree, our gatherings. And travelling throughout the water ways, the life veins, was a way to travelling to and from. The natural resources, our life source. The nutrients we continue to grow from. All flow from the Murray River. The ochre quarries, the salt lakes, the clay balls, and the bardi grubs. The fish species and the tribes along and throughout the water ways.



South West

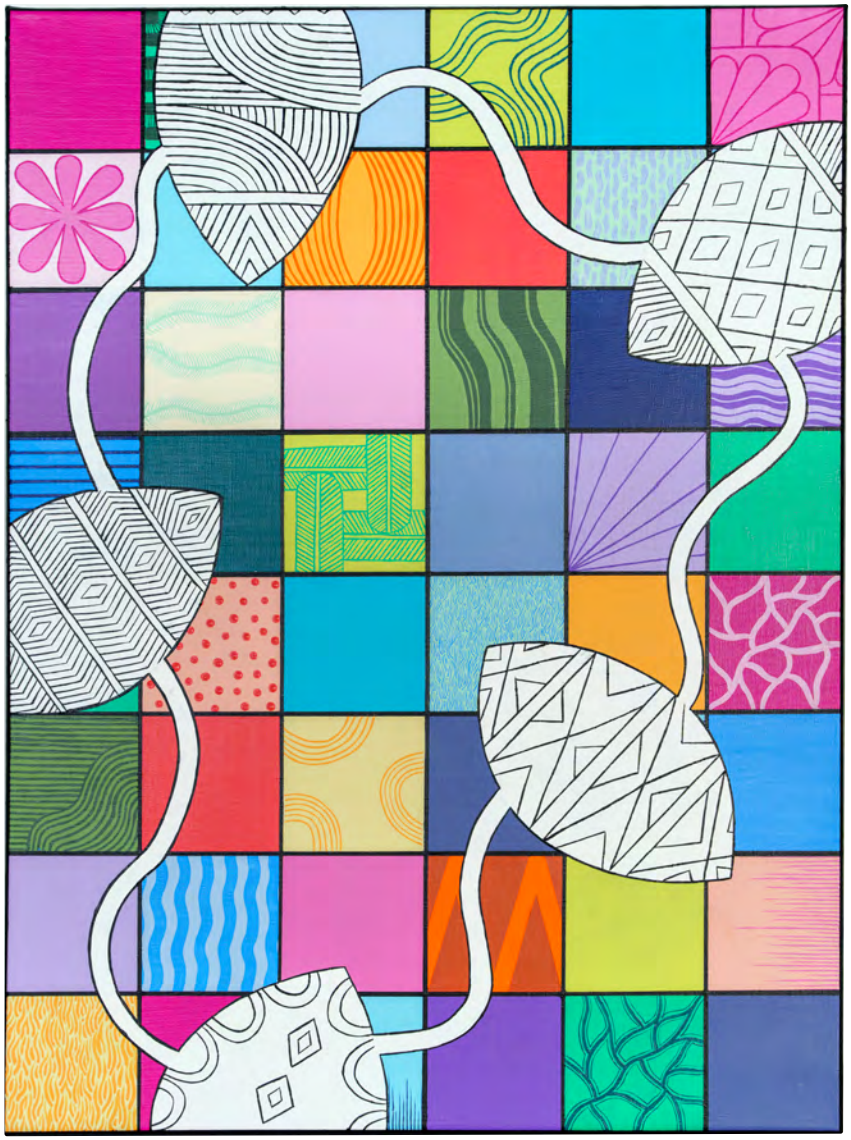
by Kiewa Austin-Rioli
(Gunditjmara)

The artwork highlights the strength our people have when we unite as one. The meeting places and journey symbols through the middle of the artwork shows how strong our communities are when we come together this is shown by the crosshatching which represents strength and all the people sitting and supporting along the way. This journey is our long journey towards Treaty. The other circles surrounding the journey shows more communities supporting along the way. There are hands along the artwork which represents our ancestors who came before us and had to fight the fight and they are still watching over, protecting and supporting our mob always. The shields and spears also represent protections along our journey to treaty by our mob and ancestors. The background shows Mother Earth and how she is very much alive by the movement and flow which shows our land in between communities and our connection to each other through Mother Earth.

South East

Ngetal Narmung
– Ngetal Wurruk
(My veins – My Country)

by Njarala Paton
(Monero Ngario,
Gunai, Gunditjmara)



My artwork reflects how I see, experience and connect to my Country as a young person. It comes through the little things: the details of Country in the leaves, the movement of the river, the patterns in the tree bark, and then the way water moves slowly over rocks in a stream. I think about the sound of rain – how it sounds and how I feel it from the soft touch of mist to large heavy drops pelting on the roof. The feathers, tiny animal tracks in the bush, their patterns through the sand and the way wind moves through the trees.

I'm drawn to the colours of Country – the early morning light over distant hills, the colours hiding in the shadows of plants, and how colours change as the sun moves across the sky, changing into deep reds, pinks and oranges at the end of the day. My own sketches are in there too – things you might not see, but I do.

All these snippets of connection sit as windows underneath the painting like little windows into my connection with Country and my Gunaikurnai culture.

The five Gunaikurnai shields represent cultural strength and I have layered them over the detailed windows. The shields and connecting veins lightly touch and if you look closely, you'll see those windows and the veins connecting them – because Culture and Country are always one.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA

VICTORIA State Government