



Treaty Victoria

August 2025

What is Treaty?

A Treaty is a negotiated agreement between two or more parties. Treaties between First Peoples and governments have been signed in other jurisdictions including New Zealand and Canada.

Each treaty is unique and negotiated based on the interest and needs of the parties involved. International and local evidence shows treaties deliver good outcomes for everyone.

Victoria's Treaty is a practical way for Aboriginal Victorians to develop and deliver solutions at the local level. Treaty will bring Victorian communities together.

Why Victoria needs Treaty

In Victoria, we have been on the Truth and Treaty path for nearly ten years. We have passed legislation twice, developed policies, and made commitments across every level of government.

We are on this path because throughout our history, First Peoples have been excluded from social and economic opportunities.

The policies and practices of the Victorian Government created an opportunity gap that continues today. Without significant change, this exclusion will continue. Treaty will create a pathway to change what isn't working.

Laws and policies work best when the people affected by them have a say in how they work.

Treaty and Truth-telling

To overcome inequality, we need to understand how it was created, and how it continues. Australia's first formal truth-telling process, the Yoorrook Justice Commission heard evidence into the historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria, to uncover Victoria's shared history and establish an official record. The Commission's final reports were tabled in Parliament on 1 July 2025 and findings will inform the Treaty negotiation process.

The Commission received over 1300 submissions. During the Commission's 67 public hearings, Victorians had the opportunity to hear of the strength, resilience and resistance of Aboriginal people – of their unbroken connection to culture and Country for tens of thousands of years.

Treaty is our opportunity to come to grips with the history we share - and walk side-by-side towards a better future.

How Treaty negotiations are working

Statewide Treaty negotiations commenced in November 2024.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has been operating since 2019 and is the independent, democratically elected body representing Aboriginal Victorians at the Statewide Treaty negotiating table. Assembly members are democratically elected representatives from Traditional Owners in all areas of the state.

The Treaty Authority, an independent umpire, oversees Victoria's Treaty process. The Treaty Authority supports the negotiation process to follow the rules set out in the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

The Treaty Negotiation Framework is the rulebook that sets out how Treaty negotiations will work. The Framework determines what can be included in a Treaty, how the negotiations will work, how disputes will be handled and how the Treaty process will be conducted. The Victorian Government is negotiating Treaty on behalf of all Victorians.

What is being negotiated in the first Statewide Treaty negotiations?

Negotiations on Victoria's Statewide Treaty Bill are focusing on how to evolve the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria into an ongoing representative body to provide advice to Government and make decisions over matters that affect First Peoples.

Treaty is a practical way for Aboriginal people to have a say about the policies that impact Aboriginal health, housing and education.

Later this year, the Victorian Government expects to introduce the Statewide Treaty Bill to Parliament.

Victoria's Statewide Treaty Bill is proposed to give the Assembly decision-making powers to make sure First Peoples' communities can design and deliver practical solutions for their communities.

The State and the Assembly are negotiating on how to provide for the Assembly to form the independent accountability mechanism that is required by the National Agreement to Close the Gap, and lead ongoing truth-telling, healing and reconciliation across Victorian towns and regions, including capturing stories and retaining an archive of this information to support education of the broader public about our shared history.

Treaty is a pathway to acknowledging the past and making real, practical change to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria and close the gap.

The Productivity Commission found governments haven't fully understood the scale of change needed to meet their Closing the Gap commitments. It urged shared decision-making with First Peoples – and praised Victoria's Treaty process as a leading example.

Find out more and get involved



Scan QR or visit treatyvictoria.vic.gov.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to them, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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