

Our statement

We, the Aboriginal Community Assembly, acknowledge the traditional lands and waters of the Sovereign Aboriginal people of Victoria. We recognise our Sovereignty over those lands and waters has never been ceded. We acknowledge our Ancestors, Elders, and Communities who have been at the forefront of our thoughts throughout this entire process. We reflect upon the history of our shared survival and our spirit of resilience.

Through the memories of all our ancestors, those long gone and those departed recently, our Sovereignty, knowledge, experience and purpose has enabled us to create a community of multiple opinions despite the apprehension we initially felt. Our diversity and difference is a platform of strength. Solidarity emerged through our collective strength. We believe this will serve as a base for the entire Treaty process and carry through to the Representative Body.

Our task was to consider and make recommendations on the following questions:



We were guided by the input from our Community via the results of the Community Consultations and the online surveys. We developed our recommendations through deliberation, yarning and robust debate informed by our collective knowledge and experience, and strengthened by drawing the stories of our families and communities into our work.

The recommendations will be delivered at the conclusion of the Community Assembly. When we deliver them to the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group and the Victorian Government, they will be considered and acted upon.

We acknowledge the response of the Victorian Government to the Aboriginal Community's call for Treaty. It has been our privilege and honour to move this important journey forward for our people. The Sovereign Aboriginal people of Victoria are leading the way not only in Victoria but across the entire nation. We are creating something of our own. Something strong and independent from Government. The Community Assembly was made up of the following Community members:

Aunty Joy Murphy
 Uncle Bevan Harrison
 Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone
 Aunty Hilary Saunders
 Uncle Stephen Walsh
 Karen Jones
 Antoinette Gentile
 Neville Atkinson
 Louise Chatfield
 Shane Bell
 Alister Thorpe
 Alan Walsh
 Jordan Edwards
 Jade Hudson-Morgan
 Emily Tipping
 Jidah Clark

Aunty Fay Carter
 Aunty Lois Peeler
 Uncle Colin Bourke
 Uncle Michael Bell
 Aunty Lyn Thorpe
 Daria Atkinson
 Jesse Williams
 Belinda Duarte
 Tracey Onus Bamblett
 Tiriki Onus
 Kylie Spencer
 Billy McGuinness
 Christopher Saunders
 Madison Connors
 James Atkinson

This is just the start of our journey towards Treaty or Treaties. We look forward to what comes next.