

ENTRY INTO STATEWIDE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: **WE ARE READY**

Declaration of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.



This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Our sovereignty was never ceded.

We are still here and here we will remain.
Strong. Resilient. Fearless. Together.

Our connection to Country, our pride in our cultures and collective identities, and the lore of these lands have survived and will thrive once again.

We recognise that this moment is because of the courage, strength and struggle of our Elders, Ancestors and those who have come before us. Their legacy drives our fight for Treaty.

As the elected Members of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, chosen by our communities to represent them on the shared journey to Treaty in Victoria, we now take our next collective step forward.

We declare the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria ready to enter into Statewide Treaty negotiations.

We affirm our right and ability to serve as the First Peoples' Representative Body to negotiate Statewide Treaty as outlined in the Treaty Negotiation Framework and relevant legislation.

For us, self-determination is not just a destination – it is a way of life. It embodies how we operate and all that we do now and into the future.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is a manifestation of our sovereignty as we exercise our inherent rights, maintain our continuing connection to Country, and uphold our cultures, lore and law.

When it comes to our matters, our communities are the experts. That is why we need the freedom and power to make the decisions about our lives, on our own terms.

We are ready to negotiate Treaty.

