

BOARD COMMUNIQUE MEETING NO. 2021-1 HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Board Matters

1. The Board noted the strategic planning session to be held following the meeting.
2. The board also noted sorry business acknowledging in particular Uncle Colin Burke and Jodie Agnew-Alberts.

Subcommittees and Subsidiaries

3. The Board noted reports of the Subcommittees, and in particular:
 - The Finance, Audit and Risk Management Subcommittee Report including the self-audit process and meeting scheduled with Federation Enterprises
 - Governance Alignment Committee seeking EOI for board members.
4. The Board noted the finance report, including the ongoing position and solvency of the organisation.
5. The Board noted the Federation Enterprises report, which highlighted the financial status, and updated on the progress in implementing the strategic plan.
6. The Board noted and discussed the First Nations Legal and Research Services Report, noting fieldwork was beginning as Covid-19 restrictions ease and the recent judicial review in relation to the registration of the Taungurung ILUA, where the Court had found error in the registration process by the Tribunal with regard to the failure to properly consider the affidavits challenging registration. The judicial review did not make any adverse findings about the work of FNLRS or Taungurung.

Corporate Matters

7. The Board considered and was appraised of several key matters including:
 - The Federation's Budget Bid to the State Budget Process –was lodged just prior to Christmas. It was noted that there has been positive consideration in the process to date by Ministers. About 90% of the funds sought are targeted to TOCs around the State, emphasizing the long term sustainable funding for TOCs, and implementation of key NRM and Country strategies such as fire, Country Planning and other key strategies such as local government relationships, native foods and botanicals and nation building resources.

- The roll out of Treaty Discussion Papers and the associated webinar series – have had a strong positive response from a broad range of stakeholders including legal, media and academic interests in addition to the core audience of Traditional Owners.
- The finalisation of several key strategy reports – including Cultural Landscapes Strategy, Traditional Owner-led Native Foods and Botanicals Strategy and Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy which have all been developed over the last 12-18 months with Traditional Owner interests, are now being shared with Ministers, with a view to setting launch dates and implementation processes.
- The Nation Building package, which is overseen by a Partnership of Aboriginal Victoria, FNLRS and FVTOC is in roll-out stage, with several applications and assessments made. Of key note is the Information Protocol that has been developed to ensure that any confidential information developed by communities is not compromised through the funding and reporting processes.
- The Federation is represented on the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council convened by the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions alongside Aboriginal community leaders and departmental executives. A key priority for the Council is the development of the next Victorian Employment and Economic Development Strategy.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

Website: www.fvtoc.com.au

Communiques: www.fvtoc.com.au/communiques

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we work on as the First People of this country.