

# BOARD COMMUNIQUE MEETING NO. 2021-3 HELD ON 26 August 2021

## Board Matters

### *Subcommittees and Subsidiaries*

1. The Board noted reports of the Subcommittees, and in particular:
  - approved changes recommended by the Governance Alignment Subcommittee to the Terms of Reference for the Finance Audit and Risk Management Sub-committee and the Governance Alignment Sub-committee. The key changes were to the membership of those committees to ease the requirements for non-director membership and quorum, and clarifications to the scope and role, while retaining the recommendatory mandate
  - approved an updated Federation Budget 2021-22, particularly recognising increased income following the work done to secure funding in the State Budget for Traditional Owner interests.
2. The Board noted the Federation Enterprises report, and acknowledged the increasing financial strength of the Barpa joint venture.
3. The Board noted the First Nations Legal and Research Services Report, including an update on the recent decision of the Court in relation to the National Native Title Tribunal's procedure in the registration of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiated between the State and Taungurung people.

### *Strategy*

4. The Board noted the Federation's work on Treaty and the recent media articles in relation to the potential model for formal recognition that the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria are working on and particularly in light of the recent ILUA registration processes.
5. The Board acknowledged the desire to support and strengthen formal recognition including across the 25% of Victoria's regions that as yet do not have formally recognised Traditional Owner structures. The Board discussed the importance of enabling groups to self-determine their own structures, and that the corporate structures enable rights to be activated.
6. The Board also articulated that the hard work to establish recognition and representation for the majority of groups should not be undermined as it is critical to the certainty required with the State for achieving outcomes under native title, Traditional Owner settlements, cultural heritage (RAP) and now Treaty.

## Corporate Matters

7. The Board considered and was appraised of several key matters through the CEO Report, including:
  - changes to the Nation Building Package to provide extended program funding to Traditional Owner Corporations and also to provide greater focus on the pathways to formal recognition
  - the launch of the Cultural Landscapes Strategy with Minister d’Ambrosio which provides enabling pathways to embed Victorian Traditional Owner rights and interests into public land planning and management
  - the increased focus on economic development, including to support Traditional Owner voices in the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council
  - the Treaty webinar held on 5 August on the potential for “Aboriginal control of Aboriginal affairs: An Aboriginal parliament and public service” which is available on the website
  - a partnership with the Melbourne Press Club to sponsor the Quill Awards for Aboriginal Affairs journalism with a strategic view to help promote quality journalism on matters of relevance to Traditional Owners
  
8. The Board received the finance report, noting the strong working capital ratio and cashflow.

**Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations**

Website: [www.fvtoc.com.au](http://www.fvtoc.com.au)

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