

Across Victoria the Traditional Owner Corporations are a growing sector, increasingly contributing to Aboriginal economic output and the State economy alongside Aboriginal community organisations, employment, and business including self-employment.

Although some Traditional Owner Corporations have yet to settle claims, this factsheet is intended to provide baseline information and an initial snapshot of the current role and state of economic contribution that the corporations are making.<sup>1</sup>

### Assets

Traditional Owner Corporations, recognised under the Native Title Act, the Traditional Owner Settlement Act or by the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners, represent a significant sector in the economy of Aboriginal organisations. The asset base is growing across a number of sectors and across the regions in Victoria.

### Land

Native Title has been found to exist over 15,156 square kilometres of land in Victoria.

Through the Native Title Act and Traditional Owner Settlement Act agreements the corporations have obligations and responsibilities over a significant amount of public land in Victoria.

Agreements registered under these Acts cover 36% of Victoria, or 83,400 square kilometres.<sup>2</sup>

**There are 40 joint management arrangements over parks and reserves in the State.**

Land held in freehold by Aboriginal corporations is an estimated 17,124 hectares, including 2,865 hectares held under statute.

### The combined asset base

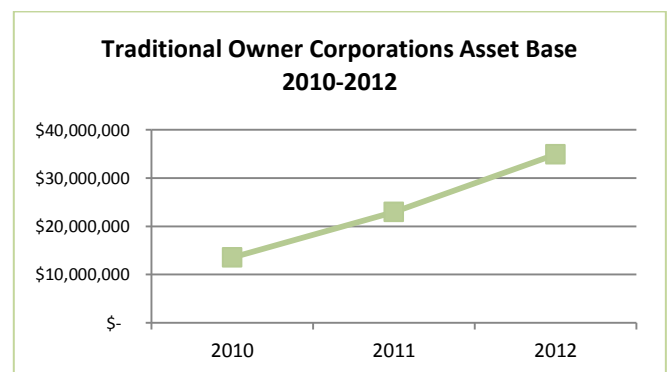
Indigenous corporations in Victoria are growing. As at 30 June 2012 Traditional Owner Corporations and other entities holding money on behalf of Traditional Owners had total assets of over \$34.9m. This is significantly higher than the \$13.5m assets held even in 2010.

There are numerous other assets and organisations which are not included on this 'balance sheet'. For example, it is complex to quantify the value of the rights in Native Title, and to determine the assets of companies which may be owned by Aboriginal people but are not identified as such.

### Asset Base

<i>Indigenous Organisations in Victoria<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>As at June 2012</i>
	<i>\$m</i>
<i>Traditional Owner Corporations</i>	<i>34.9</i>
<i>Significant Aboriginal Co-operatives</i>	<i>29.1</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>18.3</i>
<b>TOTAL Assets</b>	<b>82.3</b>

**Over the last 3 years there has been significant growth in the assets held by or on behalf of Traditional Owner Corporations**



**Significant growth in the Traditional Owner Corporations between 2010-2012:**

**asset base rising by 158% from  
\$13.5m to \$34.9m**

<sup>1</sup> The figures presented in this fact sheet are likely to be conservative and underestimate the value of the contribution to the economy. This is largely due to the due to the paucity of data in some areas and in particular information relating to incorporated companies.  
<sup>2</sup> National Native Title Tribunal 2013.

<sup>3</sup> The Traditional Owner Corporations included in this fact sheet are those organisations that are members of the Victorian Federation of Traditional Owner Corporations or which have the potential to be members, and includes those with settlements and determinations, or with claims pending and funds held in trust. Figures derived from ORIC and NTSV sources.

## Indigenous organisations are generating significant income

In 2011-12 the Indigenous organisations registered by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) generated over \$34m income in Victoria.

The Traditional Owner Corporations in Victoria earned income of over \$14m in 2011-12.

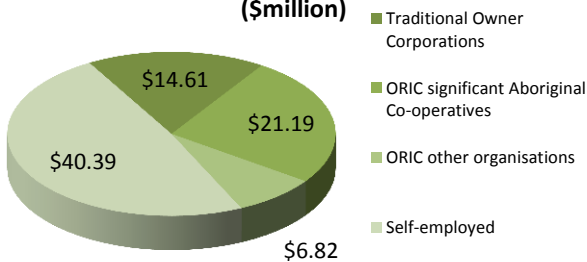
A significant proportion of that income is contributing directly to the local economies through the payment of salary and wages.

Of the organisations registered by ORIC in 2011-12 for Victoria, 10 reported expenditure on **salary and wages totalling \$13.7 million** and 65 reported having a total of **448 employees as at 30 June 2012**.

Based on the 2011 Census, Indigenous self-employed owner/managers also contributed significantly to the income generated by the Indigenous community in Victoria.<sup>4</sup>

**Indigenous organisations and business generated almost \$83 million in 2011-2012.**

### Income generated by Aboriginal businesses and organisations 2011-12 (\$million)



The Traditional Owner Corporations have an underlying strengthening of their asset base and income streams. However, in these initial years of development this income is very uneven, and is significantly impacted through settlements.

Given the aspirations of the Traditional Owner Corporations include the employment outcomes for their people, and particularly on country – in the regions – there is likely to be an added benefit to the local economies.

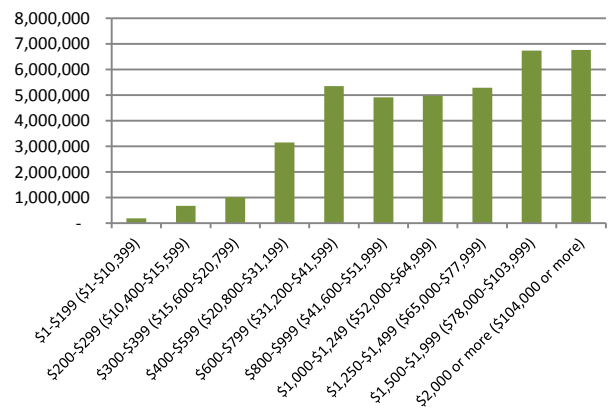
<sup>4</sup> The 2011 Census data indicates there were 854 Aboriginal owner/managers of both incorporated and unincorporated businesses. The mid-point of the income bands was used to generate the estimates in this factsheet, except for the highest bracket, which used a regressive (33%) factor to estimate the numbers and nominated income bands from which to calculate the income earned.

## Self-employment<sup>5</sup>

According to the 2011 Census there were 854 Aboriginal owner/managers of both incorporated and unincorporated businesses in Victoria.

While the proportion of self-employed who are Aboriginal is smaller than for the whole population, there was a greater proportion of Aboriginal self-employed outside of the Melbourne metropolitan area than non-Indigenous people.

### Aboriginal owner/managers total income generated 2011-12 by income bands



## Employment

Employment remains the most significant factor in terms of income earned for Aboriginal people.

From Census data it is possible to estimate that the income earned is in the region of \$410m per annum.

Combined with the business earnings, Aboriginal people and the corporations, businesses and organisations therefore are earning income of over \$480 million. Given that this does not include most corporations or organisations which are not registered with ORIC, this is likely to under-estimate the economic contribution made annually.

**Aboriginal employees, self-employed and Aboriginal organisations combined earn an income of over**

**\$480 million annually in Victoria**

<sup>5</sup> Sourced from 2011 Census data for Victoria.

*While the Federation has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information, no warrantee is made as to the accuracy of the information contained in this document and no liability is accepted by the Federation for any statement or opinion, or for an error or omission or for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance on or use of any material in the document.*