

## **FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW CEO**

Friday, 28 February 2020

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Paul Paton as the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Paton is a Gunnai and Monaro man with a long involvement in reconnecting individuals and communities with language, culture and identity.

He has held several executive roles and directorships including as the Executive Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and as a Director on the Board of First Nations Legal & Research Services.

The Federation was established in 2013 by Traditional Owner Corporations to provide a collective voice for Traditional Owners to self-determine their future and has been at the forefront of advocating for greater recognition of Traditional Owners across a range of policy and programs that impact Country and communities.

Mr Paton begins with the Federation on April 6.

Departing CEO, Marcus Stewart, left the role in January this year after being elected to the position of Co-Chair of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

The Federation Board, staff and collaborators extend their thanks to Mr Stewart for his determination and tireless advocacy for Traditional Owners right across Victoria and Aboriginal Victorians more broadly.

**Quotes attributable to Jason Mifsud, Chair of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations:**

“We welcome Paul Paton to the Federation as the new CEO. It is significant to have a Victorian Traditional Owner of Paul’s experience, character and calibre to lead the Federation as we continue to fiercely advocate for the rights, interests and benefits for Traditional Owner recognition in Victoria”

**Quotes attributable to Paul Paton, incoming CEO of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations:**

“The Federation has become a key organisation in strengthening the voice of Traditional Owners in Victoria, and I am committed to building on this achievement by bringing my knowledge, skills and networks to work closely with Traditional Owners across the State to support their aspirations for community and Country whilst taking up the challenge for self-determination and Treaty”