



## **Media Statement**

**Wednesday 17 August 2022**

### ***Treaty Authority Bill 2022***

Last night, a significant step on the road to genuine self-determination and recognition of the unique rights and responsibilities of Traditional Owners was made in Victoria. The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations congratulates the Andrews government and Minister Williams on bringing the legislation to fruition, and acknowledges the leadership and work of the First Peoples' Assembly.

Through an independent authority that respects, observes and upholds Aboriginal Lore, Law and cultural authority, the Victorian Government has committed to the tangible transfer of power to Traditional Owners.

Don't stop now in all other aspects of this important work; it is time to support Traditional Owners in the implementation and journey including to access cultural water for economic development, to remove regulatory barriers to cultural burning of Country and the holistic management of Country as a cultural landscape, and to enable protection of Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property.

Whilst this is a step of great importance, we need to make sure that we don't take our foot off the pedal, that we continue to transfer real decision making to Traditional Owners and that we don't stop now.

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#### **Quotes**

**Paul Paton, CEO, Federation of Victoria Traditional Owner Corporations**

*"We have raised our voices and now we have the authority to make decisions according to our lores and cultural traditions. This is not the first step, nor the last, but it is a significant one on the road to realising genuine self-determination."*

*"This step is a significant one but there are many steps along the journey to continue to implement this fundamental shift towards recognising Traditional Owner knowledge and responsibilities."*

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## About the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is the Victorian state-wide body that convenes and advocates for the rights of Traditional Owners while progressing wider social, economic, environmental and cultural objectives. We support the progress of agreement-making and participation in decision-making to enhance the authority of Traditional Owner Corporations on behalf of their communities.

The Federation was established in 2013 by Traditional Owner Corporations who recognised that through a path of working together Traditional Owner Groups could be stronger and could advance their shared interests in policy engagement, and in creating economic opportunities and caring for Country.

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## Links

Country Management Strategies

- [Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy](#)
  - [Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscape Strategy](#)
  - [Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy](#)
  - [Victorian Traditional Owner Native Food and Botanicals Strategy](#)
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