



**Federation of
Victorian Traditional
Owner Corporations**

Media Statement

Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games

Visit Aboriginal Victoria – a place of Culture for over 40,000 years

Friday 2 September 2022

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations has a vision of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games providing sporting and cultural excellence across our diverse Aboriginal Countries.

The tourism, economic and cultural development opportunities for Traditional Owner Corporations, presented by the Games, will showcase Victoria as having a unique international cultural identity.

We have an opportunity to show the world what being the living oldest living cultures on earth means. We have been living our culture, our traditions, our Country for over 40,000 years, let's use this opportunity to create economic development and ensure the future is secure.

Paul Paton, CEO.

While there will be opportunities for procurement, employment and economic development; the social and cultural authority that will flow from increased Traditional Owner visibility will carry on long after the Games have finished and contribute to a richer understanding of Victoria's contemporary identity that includes strong Traditional Owner culture and stories.

Victoria's eleven Traditional Owner Corporations are large regional employers and providers of cultural tourism. Whilst all Corporations will benefit from increased tourism, as visitors extend stays to include travel across the state, those in participating regional cities and Games hubs will see the biggest demand.

All Corporations must be supported to develop capacity and capability to be 'Games ready'. We must ensure that Traditional Owner Corporations have capacity to provide the significant volume of cultural content required by the Games and associated tourism and that their Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights are respected.

It is essential that support for Corporations to be ready starts immediately. Each Corporation is at an individual stage of enterprise and economic development. To be able to provide the necessary content and services to the Games, they require immediate, tailored support to enable capacity building to start now.

Aboriginal culture can provide a unique cultural branding and tourism package for the Games but it must be underpinned by economic development to realise long-term benefits for all Victorian Traditional Owners.

Today we released our Vision for the Games www.fvtoc.com.au/blog/2022/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games