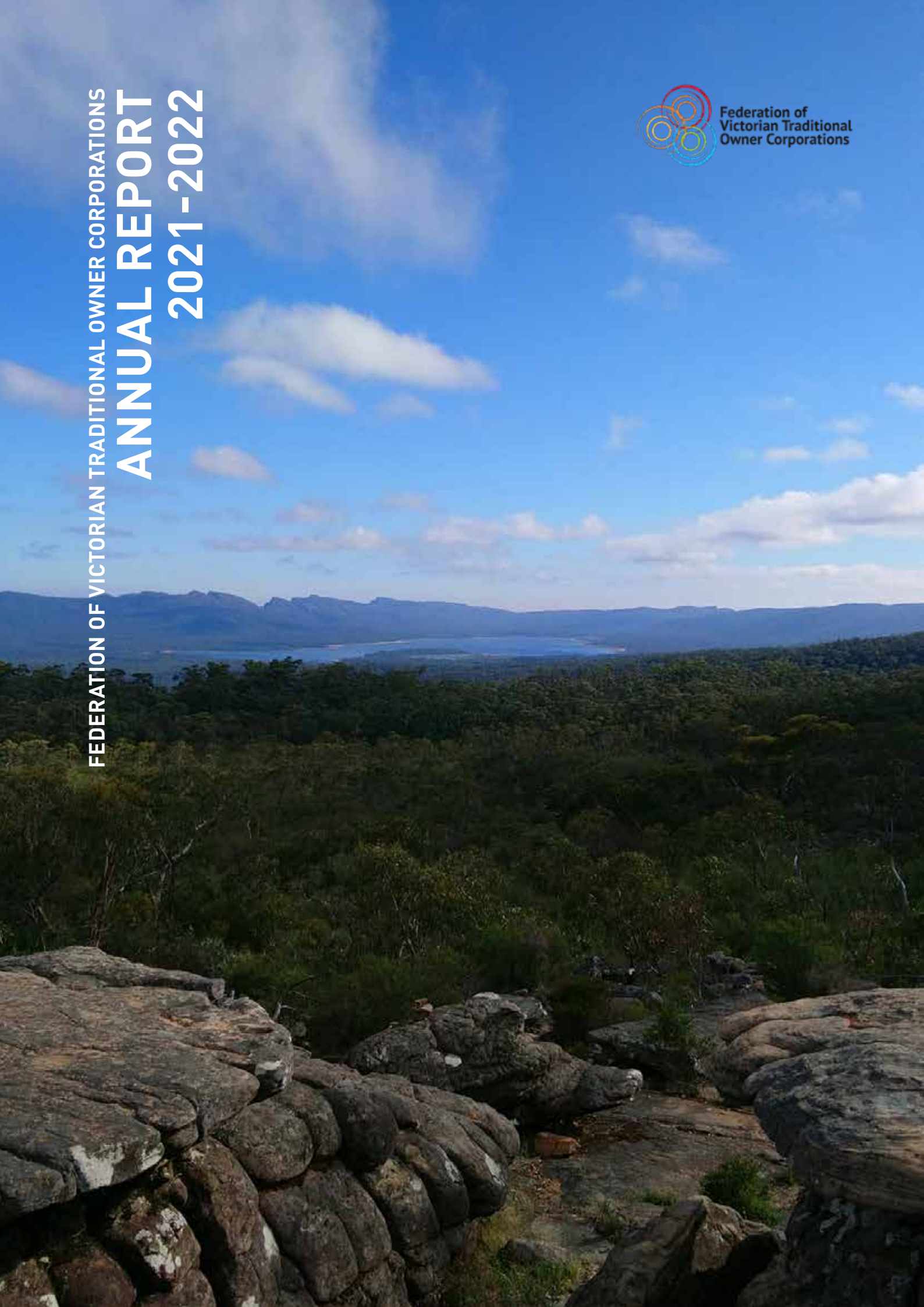


FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN TRADITIONAL OWNER CORPORATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022





The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we work on as the First Peoples of this Country.

Published by the
Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations
12-14 Leveson Street, North Melbourne 3051, Victoria, Australia
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Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this document may contain images or names of People who have since passed away.

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November 2022

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Orion Kahza, 2020,
Grampians National Park,
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Louissa Rogers,
Longmore Lagoon,
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Ed Dunens, 2017,
Christmas Hill,
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The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (Federation) plays an important role in the Victorian Aboriginal policy landscape, ensuring that the voices of our inclusive and representative Traditional Owner Corporations are heard. With unique pressures, responsibilities and needs, the Corporations are the backbones of their communities having been formed through a rigorous and generational fight for recognition.

As we enter an election year, with the federal election having been held at the start of 2022 and the Victorian election at the end of 2022, we seek to have our policy platforms heard. Whilst acknowledging the significant journey the Victorian state government has been on, in the establishment of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria, we must also acknowledge the great journey still ahead. We must be sure to hold government to account in realising true self-determination for our People and be vigilant that they don't stop now.

Since 2017, we have worked together with First Nations Legal & Research Services (First Nations) to realise a shared vision of Traditional Owners strong on Country and leading the social, political, economic and cultural landscape. We have been two strong, resolute vehicles facilitating and amplifying Traditional Owner voices to self-determine their futures and to build on and strengthen collective interest and opportunities.

Early in 2022, the First Nations Board wrote to the Federation Board proposing de-coupling the organisations. This would be achieved through Federation withdrawing as the sole member of First Nations. We agreed because we feel that de-coupling would better meet community expectations for accountability and respond to a perceived need for there to be a clearer distinction between the roles of each organisation.

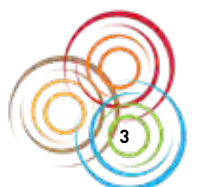
As a result, from 1 July 2022 the Federation will no longer be a member of First Nations and will therefore not be responsible for appointing the Directors of First Nations. The Federation's core governance arrangements remain in place, maintaining our core accountability to and direction from the members.

These last twelve months have seen an enormous volume of work undertaken by the Federation with and in the interests of all Victorian Traditional Owners across a range of social, economic and environmental portfolios with expectations for both long and shorter term outcomes. The release of key government strategies with Traditional Owner voices and expectations embedded deep within them is in no small part due to the continuing facilitation and careful advocacy of the Federation and its members and those who have so generously contributed their knowledge and vision to our work.

Each of these steps build on, create and contribute to the continuing tide of change in progressing the legacy we can leave for our children's children and all Victorians.



Rodney Carter | November 2022





CEO'S REPORT

Bushfire recovery
in Australia,
Public Domain Mark 1.0

Jack Heywood, 2010,
12 Apostles - Great Ocean
Road, Victoria, Public
Domain Mark 1.0



This reporting period has seen a tentative return to normalcy after the last two years of lockdown punctured life. As an organisation that respects the need for face-to-face discussion about issues that affect and are affected by Traditional Owners, we have bridged the need for online consultation with efficacy but are looking forward to again shaking hands and sharing a table.

During the last twelve months we have undertaken significant policy work that, if implemented, will make a profound difference to Traditional Owners' management of Country and realisation of rights. The following pages highlight some of our key work programs and provide some small insight into the scope and depth of work the Federation undertakes.

Redefining management of the connection to Country for the world's oldest living culture is the *Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy*, launched in August 2021. Facilitated by the Federation and developed in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria, the Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia and sets out a framework to systematically enable Victorian Traditional Owners to lead planning and activate cultural knowledge and practices to manage Country.

We have worked closely with Traditional Owners to inform *Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap*, supporting the development of Nation Statements, which assert their sovereignty and describe the cultural importance of water to their communities.

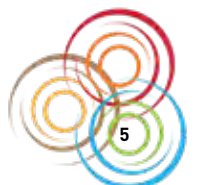
The inclusion of their Nation Statements in *Water is Life* shows a significant shift in the way policy is being developed in Victoria. Across the diverse voices of Traditional Owners provided in their Nation Statements, there is a common refrain that Traditional Owners must be enabled to realise their rights to water and to be decision makers as rights holders, equal to the State. To do this, systemic change is needed through legislative and policy reforms that provide pathways to improve access to, ownership, and management of water by Traditional Owners.

Our work to ensure Traditional Owners are actively involved in the development of all policy that impacts our lives, cultures and countries has been advanced in our participation on the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee. Released during the reporting period, the Strategy includes a clear framework for shared decision-making processes and actions for Aboriginal Victorians working together with local government based on mutual control, shared power and decision-making, fairness, respect, and trust.

It is in this mindset of trust and respect that I would like to thank all the knowledge holders who have talked to us, our member corporations who have shared their visions with us, our government partners who have sought our unique skills and our communities who have supported us. I will also mention the enormous responsibility of the work undertaken by our staff and thank them for their commitment, knowledge and respect for this important work. Together, we look forward to working with you all again in 2022-2023.



Paul Paton | November 2022



ABOUT US

Our VISION is of Traditional Owners strong on Country and leading the social, political, economic and cultural landscape.

Our PURPOSE is to facilitate and amplify Traditional Owner voices to self-determine their futures and to build on and strengthen collective interests and opportunities.

Our OBJECTIVE is to embed recognition, empower self-determination and enable capacity through facilitating, convening, communicating, advocating and amplifying the Traditional Owner voice.

Our background is one of exercising self-determination within existing statutory and regulatory systems. The Federation was registered on 2 August 2013 as a public company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and this shapes our corporate governance and financial reporting practices.

The Federation is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and we are a public benevolent institution. The Federation's organisational objectives and governance structure are set out in the constitution of the company which is publicly available on the ACNC website.

We are guided by our **FOUR VALUES**

- COMMUNITY** Working to achieve better outcomes for Victorian Traditional Owner communities.
- CULTURE** Engaging with respect for Traditional Owners' cultural values, knowledge and practices.
- COUNTRY** Recognising all Victorian Traditional Owners and respecting their primacy over Country, we come together to keep Country strong.
- COLLABORATION** Participation in economic opportunities and decision-making processes, whilst sharing knowledge and experience based on trust and mutual respect.

Our work is undertaken through **FOUR PILLARS**

- ADVOCACY** Advocating for rights, interests and objectives of Traditional Owner Corporations.
- NATION BUILDING** Supporting the sustainable development, capability and capacity of Traditional Owner Corporations to achieve their objectives.
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING** Supporting knowledge, systems and practice development through the promotion of resources, events, and information sharing opportunities.
- ACCOUNTABILITY** Ensuring that government is accountable for enabling the principles of Aboriginal self-determination.

Orion Kahza, 2020,
Grampians National Park,
Public Domain Mark 1.0





OUR MEMBERS

Alexandra Hill,
Wombat State Forest,
CC By 2.0

Our five member corporations are the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, DJAARA, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, First People of the Millewa-Malle Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Membership of the Federation is an essential way to raise our voices over shared concerns and celebrate our communities and achievements.

The work the Federation does to progress the ambitions of Traditional Owners across Victoria, through engagement and advocacy, provides a state-wide perspective. The Federation's member corporations direct this work, including the policy positions and statutory changes required to move forward real self-determination for Traditional Owners.

Coming together to share resources, call for change and set policy direction strengthens our commitment.

Our members share their collective visions for self-determination of Country and Culture, and the Federation undertakes the work to find government pathways to realise these visions. Without members setting this direction and strengthening the Federation's collective voice, the work would fall to individual corporations or not be undertaken at all.

As a Victoria-wide collective, the Federation also raises the voices of its member corporations on national and international stages. This provides members with a means of discussing their concerns in broader considerations of First Nations rights and ambitions without having to support their own policy and legal staff. Capacity support and resource sharing is a central provision of the Federation to its members in the areas of policy and regulatory change.

Working together begins to roll back some of the imposition of colonisation as we share our Nation ambitions.





Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

We are a Traditional Owner organisation that represent the Bunurong people of the South-Eastern Kulin Nation. We aim to preserve and protect the sacred lands and waterways of our ancestors, their places, traditional cultural practices, and stories.

336-340 Nepean Highway
Frankston VIC 3199

(03) 9770 1273

www.bunuronglc.org

admin@bunuronglc.org.au



DJAARA

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (**DJAARA**) is a representative body for Dja Dja Wurrung People. Our vision is of a thriving and sustainable corporation with established interests across the Clan's traditional areas that are cultural, environmental, and economically beneficial for Traditional Owners and the wider community.

13-15 Forest St,
Bendigo VIC 3550

(03) 5444 2888

www.djadjawurrung.com.au

info@djadjawurrung.com.au



Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation manages native title rights for the Eastern Maar Peoples. Our land extends as far north as Ararat and encompasses the Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Great Ocean Road areas.

PO Box 546
Warrnambool VIC 3280
0427 271 937

www.easternmaar.com.au

admin@easternmaar.com.au



First People of the Millewa-Mallee

The First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation represents the Ngintait and Latji Latji Traditional Owners of the Millewa-Mallee lands in the far north-west of Victoria. As a Traditional Owner Corporation, we seek to represent the interests and well-being of our members and community.

47 Cureton Avenue East,
Mildura Vic 3500

(03) 4014 9780

www.fpmmac.com

reception@fpmmac.com.au



Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation holds statutory responsibilities for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects for our People.

Level 1 / Providence Building
Abbotsford Convent -
1 St Heliers Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067

(03) 9416 2905

www.wurundjeri.com.au

reception@wurundjeri.com.au



**Standing together
makes our voices louder
and our position stronger.**

Patrick Kavanagh, 2018,
A jewel of the bush,
CC BY 2.0



PROGRESSING RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN POLICY AND LEGISLATION

An essential part of our advocacy for Traditional Owner rights is providing advice for effective policy and legislative change through long term shifts in the legal recognition of rights and interests.

Traditional Owner Settlements - First Principles Review

The First Principles Review of the Traditional Owner Settlement Act was initiated in 2020. The Federation facilitated the Review as a partnership between the First Principles Review Committee (FPRC), which comprised Victorian Traditional Owners and individuals who work for Traditional Owner corporations, and the State. The Federation convened and supported this process to help advocate for the implementation of the Review's recommendations.

In broad terms, the Review was concerned with issues that relate to the principles and legislation that underpin Settlement Act agreements and the State's settlement policy. This included examining:

- i. the Settlement Act and certain aspects of government policy which do not accommodate aspirations of Traditional Owner groups; and
- ii. changes sought to Settlement Act outcomes which require legislative change.

During the reporting period, the FPRC and the State produced a joint report making a series of joint and individual recommendations to the Victorian Attorney-General. Some key recommendations relate to:

- Access to natural resources
- Commercial use of natural resources
- Recognition of Traditional Owner rights and interests in water
- Calculation of compensation amounts, in light of the Timber Creek High Court Judgment
- Development of Crown Land, and the leasing and sale of Crown Land
- The treatment of Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)
- The capture of Existing Public Land Authorisations upon renewal.

The final Review was signed off by the FPRC in November 2021 but continued to be considered until March 2022 when it was to begin a Cabinet review process. The Review contains both jointly agreed recommendations and recommendations from either the State or the FPRC.

It was anticipated that the recommendations of the Review would be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement prior to the State election in November 2022. However, at the time of release of this annual report, there has been no further progress.

While this has been a disappointment for the FPRC, the Federation has continued to press for further consideration of the First Principles Review recommendations, noting that the 2022 Victorian State budget indicated a willingness to continue to progress the work undertaken through the First Principles Review. This work would support Aboriginal communities to negotiate the Traditional Owner land rights that help communities realise the full benefit of their native title settlements.

D Cook,
Brolga Hird Swamp,
CC By 2.0



GOVERNMENT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

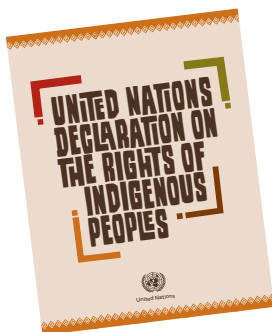
Strengthening the Application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australia

As United Nations declarations are not legally binding on a nation-state, they will have no legal effect unless directly adopted within the domestic legal system. This means that signatories, including Australia, are free to espouse support in international forums without implementation domestically.

The Federation made a submission supporting adoption of the UNDRIP and advocating to embed these core rights into domestic law and policy to provide a moral and legally coherent footing for all dealings between the government and Australia's First Peoples.

Importantly the Federation's submission gave an in-depth focus to the Victorian context and recognition through the Traditional Owner Settlement and Victorian treaty processes, as these provide sound foundations for the recognition of Traditional Owners.

The Inquiry has now lapsed and the newly established Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will carry this work forward. However, there is a changing context in Australia, particularly through Treaty processes and the Uluru Statement from the Heart creating a platform for the adoption of the terms of the UNDRIP into Australian law and policy.



SHIFTING THE TRAJECTORY IN WATER POLICY AND RECOGNITION

Drawing the Roadmap for Aboriginal Access to Water – Discussion Paper

In March 2021 the Cultural Water for *Cultural Economies Report* was released. This had been developed through a partnership of the Federation, Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) and DELWP, drawing together the voices of Traditional Owners from across the State.

In response to this report, in October 2021, DELWP released a Discussion Paper - *Drawing the Roadmap for Aboriginal Access to Water*.

During 2021-22 the Federation undertook a significant period of advocacy, facilitating and drawing on our engagement with Traditional Owners. This engagement shifted the focus of the next stage of work to address the policy and legislative reforms Traditional Owners identified that could address the legacy of water dispossession undertaken by successive Victorian (and Commonwealth) Governments.

The Federation's concerns included that there was only minimal attention on returning water to Traditional Owners. In particular, the Federation provided advice that:

- water returns that have already been identified and committed to under other processes, should be returned to Traditional Owners as a matter of course, and that Traditional Owners felt it was insincere for the Government to rely on these water parcels rather than providing a systemic approach for water returns.
- despite being identified in the Cultural Water for Cultural Economies report as a major pathway for water to be returned to Traditional Owners within Victoria's current entitlement framework, options for water reallocation had not been addressed as a critical step in delivering water justice for Traditional Owners and should occur through Government purchase of water entitlement and/or reallocation of 'under-utilised' water.

- the Government must demonstrably acknowledge and respect the good faith with which Traditional Owners were participating in the Aboriginal Access to Water Roadmap and that the Government must provide certainty that legislative and policy reform commitments would be properly resourced to enable all Traditional Owner groups advance on their water journey to restore water rights and access regardless of location and stage of their journey.
- given the importance of water to the social, spiritual, economic and environmental wellbeing of Traditional Owners greater recognition of Traditional Owner voices through a much stronger engagement process and self-determined approach was necessary.

This led to the agreement to include 'Nation Statements' in the *Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap* and the Federation's pivotal role in facilitating the inclusion of Traditional Owner perspectives

Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap

On 12 May 2022, the then Minister for Water Hon. Lisa Neville MP released the draft *Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap* with an invitation for the Federation to review and provide comment.

The Federation called on the Government to deliver systemic change and setting practical pathways to reverse the harm, trauma and socio-economic disadvantage to Traditional Owners through the forced dispossession of water and was supported to convene a variety of engagement approaches, including individual Nation scale workshops, regional and state-wide forums, and numerous informal conversations culminating in the inclusion of Nation Statements and the revised drafting of the Roadmap. The primary area for concern for Traditional Owners was the limited pathways identified to facilitate adequate water returns to Traditional Owners and, in particular, the omission of the Government's responsibility to address the legacy of dispossession that occurred under successive governments' policies.

Economic Analysis

However, there were concerns of raised by some stakeholders, in particular that Government purchase of water on behalf of Traditional Owners would distort or impair the market entitlements, price or yield.

The Federation engaged water economists to assess the impact of water purchase by Government to meet the water requirements of real-life case studies to using the Victorian Government's agreed socio-economic neutrality criteria.

The assessment showed that these case studies met the Government's own benchmark requirements. In particular that:

- entitlement transfers would not change property rights, the entitlement characteristics nor the yield;
- projects would deliver socio-economic benefits as well as environmental benefits and contribute to local communities including through new jobs and business opportunities;
- the volumes of water being sought by Traditional Owners will have no direct impact on the reliability or price of water, and the market would continue to be determined based on supply and demand; and
- depending on the zone, projects would be small compared to the total volume of water available in the consumptive pool and compared to the quantities of water entitlements traded annually.

The Federation has urged the government to leave the door open for government purchase of entitlements and/or allocations, noting that as demonstrated through the economic analysis, it is possible to restore water ownership to Traditional Owners without impacting the rights of existing entitlement holders or distorting the market.

Subsequent to the reporting period, *Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap* was released in September 2022. Our advocacy resulted in an additional Government commitment to support Traditional Owner access to water from the water market.



BRINGING A TRADITIONAL OWNER PERSPECTIVE TO MAJOR EVENT REVIEW OF REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

Following the 2019–20 bushfires, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments agreed to undertake a Major Event Review to assess the impacts of the fires and identify if future remedial actions need to be taken.

The Major Event Review was overseen by an independent Panel and informed by science, Traditional Owner knowledge and public consultation, assessing the impacts of the bushfires on environmental, economic, social and cultural values to identify if remedial actions need to be taken.

A key piece of work undertaken through the year was a submission to the Major Event Review. The main focus of the submission was to support the implementation of the building blocks already formulated by Traditional Owners, including:

- Country Plans as Traditional Owner policy documents. It supports direct engagement with Traditional Owners
- strategies developed by Traditional Owners such as the Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy (CLS) and the Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy (CFS).
- adopting a biocultural or cultural landscapes approach that ‘encompass both the biological and cultural aspects of a system, address complex relationships and feedbacks within human and ecological well-being, and offer flexible frameworks that facilitate synthesis across different metrics, knowledge systems, and ontologies’.

While there has been some positive steps taken through the review process to recognise the systems and voices of Traditional Owners, the application of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and healing Country through cultural management will play a critical role in relieving the pressures on the forests. This review is an opportunity to flip the status quo and embed a cultural landscape approach through systematic implementation of the CLS and CFS.

National Landcare Program

A review of the National Landcare Program Phase 2 was undertaken by the Commonwealth during the reporting period, examining the program’s performance in delivering outcomes for Australia’s environment, sustainable agriculture and natural resources. The review provides key analysis of stakeholder insights to identify where the program is achieving impact, and where there are opportunities for improvement.

The Federation contributed to the review, as a valuable opportunity to reflect on delivery of the program and to inform the Australian Government’s considerations for the next phase of funding under the program.

A key element of the program outcomes is an evaluation of the Indigenous Protected Areas. The Federation made particular comment on:

- the potential for enhancing the application of the program in the Victorian context, recognising the limited access to freehold land
- strengthening the resourcing for operations in Victoria so that Traditional Owners are key partners in natural resource management, potentially through funding of Aboriginal Ranger programs for women and men, which see Traditional Owners undertaking cultural management of Country (land, sea and everything in between), rather than based on land tenure.

The review work is continuing in 2022-23 and the Federation is continuing to give focus to the importance of the National Landcare Program, as a government flagship Natural Resource Management program, to align with UNDRIP and Traditional Owner aspirations directly by embedding self-determination and including streams focussed specifically on Indigenous projects.

SELF-DETERMINATION FUND DISCUSSION PAPER

The Treaty Process with *Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018* (Treaty Act) requires a Self-Determination Fund is to be established to support Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to have equal standing with the State in Treaty negotiations and to provide a financial

resource, independent from the State, that empowers communities to build capacity, wealth and prosperity.

The Federation provided critical advice to the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria (the Assembly) to establish the fund. This included emphasising the importance of the fund and acknowledgement that:

- Traditional Owner groups are at different stages in their nation rebuilding journey as they address the devastating effects of colonisation. In the negotiation of Local Treaties, Traditional Owner Nations will negotiate with the State and every effort must be made to resource Traditional Owner groups currently without formal recognition to pursue this pathway
- that Traditional Owner Nations will require substantial investment to engage in nation-rebuilding and reduce the significant power imbalance before negotiating Local Treaties with the Victorian Government.
- the Fund balances the need for self-determination and an end to government paternalism in the way Traditional Owner Nations are funded, alongside strong community expectations that accountability and transparency mechanisms will be in place to ensure the money is working for the community
- while Government investment is currently required, self-determination requires a shift in authority and control over the resources available to Traditional Owner groups to prepare for treaty and establish sustainability.
- The Federation's submission built on a range of insights from our broader work and engagement with Traditional Owner Corporations, including:
- Funding: The Federation's administration of the Nation Building Resource Pool provides useful experience to draw on, particularly in enabling Traditional Owner groups to define how they want to rebuild their nations to prepare for the negotiation of Local Treaties. The types of projects and activities Nations are undertaking with the Resource Pool funding demonstrate that well-resourced nations are best placed to decide priorities and deliver nation rebuilding.
- Management of resources: At its essence, the act of Treaty-making is an agreement between states regulating each party's exercise of sovereign power in relation to matters contained within the particular Treaty. Fundamental to the creation of wealth and economic independence, both at the individual and Traditional Owner

group level, is the communal possession and control of proprietary interests in the resources in, commercial activities on, and decision-making about, Country.

- Recognition and representation: The Federation's submission suggests that true enabling of self-determination for Traditional Owner groups is fundamentally underpinned by economic development and ultimately independence. Without the recognition, creation or grant of proprietary rights in place to build capacity, wealth, and prosperity, the separate co-existence of First Nations within the broader colonial governance system cannot be achieved.

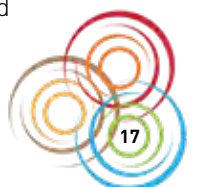
Treaty Authority Discussion Paper

Pursuant to s28 of the Treaty Act, the Treaty Authority is to be established to facilitate negotiations between Traditional Owners and the State, to resolve disputes and to administer the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

The Federation provided a submission in response to the Assembly's Discussion Paper on the Treaty Authority, drawing on references and ideas related to the proposed Treaty Authority from the Federation's Treaty Discussion papers, published over the past two years, as well as experience gained through the negotiations and implementation of settlements under the Settlement Act. Ongoing strategic policy development and advocacy with Traditional Owners across a range of natural resource management areas such as cultural fire, cultural landscapes, native foods and botanicals, water reform and game management also informed our response.

The Federation's submission suggested that there are two ways that the Treaty Authority could be strengthened to not only play a pivotal role in Treaty negotiations, but also other State based formal recognition processes which are likely to be a precursor for many groups preparing to negotiate a Local Treaty. This included:

- having the principles of the UNDRIP embedded in the Treaty Authority's founding documents, and
- giving the Authority power to settle intra and inter Traditional Owner disputes occurring as part of formal recognition processes, including negotiations under the Settlement Act or during the negotiation of a Treaty under the proposed negotiation framework for Local Treaties.



BRINGING THE TRADITIONAL OWNER VOICE TO GOVERNMENT

ABORIGINAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Federation, represented through the CEO, is a member of the Aboriginal Executive Council (AEC). Over the past year the Federation has strengthened the Council's recognition of the role of Traditional Owners and their Corporations alongside the range of other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)s. The Federation continued to advocate for Traditional Owners to be recognised as 'rights holders' and not just another stakeholder in the broader ACCO sector.

A key area of advocacy for the Federation was providing input into the Council's *Discussion paper on opportunities for embedding self-determination within legislation*. This was an opportunity to embed the inherent rights of Traditional Owners into a broader discussion about the right to self-determination. While the purpose of this paper was a call to enshrine the right to self-determination within Victorian legislation, the Federation contended that limiting the scope of the paper to the right to self-determination was not sufficient. The minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples are contained in UNDRIP, and it is the suite of rights contained in the UNDRIP, rather than individual rights, that need to be enshrined.

The Federation is a representative for the AEC on the Coalition of Peaks which has had a strong role in reshaping the Closing the Gaps framework and targets. As the 2022-23 year unfolds it is likely that there will be continuing role in ensuring the interests and perspectives of Victorian Traditional Owners help shape the Victorian and national picture.

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

During the 2021-22 year, the Federation's CEO was a member of the Victorian Aboriginal Economic and Employment Council (VAEEC) and the Koori Caucus. Over the period, the Council developed and agreed the new *Victorian Aboriginal Economic and Employment Strategy, Yuma Yirramboi* (Invest in Tomorrow in the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung language).

The strategy was launched in June 2022, and was purposefully developed as a high level approach to identify and guide the development of key priorities that support wealth creation and achieve economic parity within one generation. The Federation, drawing on advice of Traditional Owners and building on previous work, provided significant input to the strategy to help ensure and shape the focus on Traditional Owner groups interests.

The strategy's focus areas for Traditional Owners and areas that the Federation has identified includes:

- Culture – our greatest asset
- People – including through succession and directorships
- Business – procurement, industry and innovation partnerships
- Wealth creation – increasing land, resource and investment opportunities
- Jobs – generating jobs through business
- Accountability – strengthening the voice, leadership and advisory capacity.

The Federation supported the review of the Council's structure and shift to recognise individuals' who have a mix of skills, knowledge and relationships.

Paul Paton, CEO of the Federation was appointed to the renewed Yuma Yirramboi Council, which will begin its work in giving effect to the strategy during 2022-23.



VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

The Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Strategy was launched in March 2022 at an event at Parliament House Gardens in Melbourne, after some years of development, consultation and review.

The Federation provided critical advice to the process of development of the Strategy through participation on the Aboriginal Steering Committee, and advocated for resourcing to support its implementation.

The Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy is an important resource for Victorian councils. It serves as a practical guide for councils across Victoria and will help embed the voices and priorities of Aboriginal communities at a local government level. It is centred on seven strategic pillars:

- Culture, respect and trust
- Awareness and engagement
- Accountability and direction
- Governance and participation
- Economic participation
- Health and wellbeing
- Resourcing and funding.



Furthermore, the Strategy specifically recognises the roles and functions of Traditional Owners and their representative corporations, particularly recognising their role across regions and recognition under the Local Government Act 2020, which the Federation advocated for in 2018-19.

While recognising that in some regions there are strong and evolving relationships, the Federation is continuing to press for greater systemic accountability, and to recognise the role of Traditional Owner Corporations and strengths-based approaches based on the principles of self-determination to achieve local place-based outcomes for Country and our communities.

Ed Dunens, 2019,
Mount Feathertop,
CC By 2.0



SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING TRADITIONAL OWNERS

NATION BUILDING RESOURCE POOL

The Federation has been supporting Traditional Owner Corporations realise their nation ambitions through administration of the Nation Building Resource Pool, a core component of the Traditional Owner Nation-building Package.

Resource Pool funding are for projects self-determined by Traditional Owners, designed and developed by each Traditional Owner group according to their identified goals and priorities that promote one or more of the following core nation-building capabilities, namely to:

1. Strengthen the group's ability to identify and adopt shared goals and objectives and work towards the group's collective interests.
2. Strengthen the group's capacity, communications and accountability mechanisms to represent the group's interests and take on further responsibilities activating self-determination.
3. Strengthen negotiation capacity and readiness to enable participation in the treaty process, (recognising the different stages that Traditional Owner groups are at in their respective journeys towards treaty).
4. Identify, protect and conserve a Traditional Owner group's cultural heritage, broadly defined as the knowledge and lore, practices and people, objects and places that are valued, culturally meaningful and connected to identity and Country.

The Resource Pool is administered by the Federation, with funding decisions made by a Steering Committee including representatives from the Federation, First Nations Legal and Research Services and First Peoples - State Relations, Department of Premier and Cabinet. During the reporting period there was some delay in the progress of the program of work, in part because:

- projects, particularly in development phase, were significantly delayed due to COVID restrictions
- significant changes to the scope and governance of the Package were progressively announced requiring substantive amendment to the Resource Pool architecture and supporting documents, resulting in insufficient time to receive, assess and approve new Resource Pool projects during the reporting period.

Throughout the year, where needed Federation staff continued to offer support to progress projects and amend project delivery timeframes to ensure a tailored approach.

Preliminary indications are that there are positive nation-based strategies emerging and that as a result of the changes to the scope and governance arrangements, the Resource Pool has been extended to a total of nearly \$6m available until 2023-24.

VICTORIAN TRADITIONAL OWNER CULTURAL LANDSCAPES STRATEGY

In August 2021, Victorian Traditional Owners launched the *Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy*, redefining the connection to Country for the world's oldest living culture.

Facilitated by the Federation and developed in partnership with DELWP and Parks Victoria, the Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia and sets out a framework to systematically enable Victorian Traditional Owners to lead planning and activate cultural knowledge and practices to manage Country. It provides a framework and tangible actions that will underpin work by DELWP and Parks Victoria on future forest and parks management and decision making, including policy and legislative reform.

“This Strategy can connect us through our Country Plans to build upon our relationship with the Victorian Government. As Victoria’s First People we are steadily being placed back at Country to care for it as our Ancestors once did, they would be so proud we honour their legacy.”

Rodney Carter, Federation Chair

It is hoped that by 2030 the Strategy will formally embed legislative requirements and institutional arrangements to access and manage Country, and the right to sole management of important cultural sites.

“When Traditional Owners are empowered, it forges a path for healing of Country, which in turn creates strong and respected cultures. We are thrilled to be able to celebrate this significant milestone for Victorian Traditional Owners as part of our journey towards healing, nation building and sovereignty.”

Daniel Miller, Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters
Aboriginal Corporation CEO

Following the release of the strategy, the Federation has continued to facilitate Traditional Owner discussions on the opportunities for drawing on the strategy across a range of State and Commonwealth policy and program developments.

Further, with support from those Traditional Owner groups, the Federation has developed a proposal for enabling implementation of the strategy including through the establishment of a co-governance group to support leadership and greater accountability for impactful action.

This work is expected to have further impetus with the formalisation of the Parks Victoria Land Management Strategy and expected establishment of the co-governance group in 2022-23.

Herbert Haseneder, 2019, Blick von der
Great Ocean Road auf die Bass-Straße
und die Milchstraße, Bundesstaat Victoria,
Australien, Public Domain Mark 1.0



VICTORIAN TRADITIONAL OWNER NATIVE FOODS AND BOTANICALS STRATEGY

The Victorian Traditional Owner Native Foods And Botanicals Strategy (TONFABS) was launched in April 2021, and during 2021-22 the Federation with support from Agriculture Victoria supported the initiation, implementation and development of the strategy. As part of the implementation, the TONFABS Project Control Committee approved a Work Program for 2021-22 which included the establishment of Traditional Owner led co-governance arrangements to guide and direct implementation, the development of an Indigenous and Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) protection framework and a program of direct funding to Traditional Owner Corporations to implement their own programs and projects aligned to the objectives of the Strategy.

The Federation worked closely with Terri Janke & Co. law firm, and an ICIP expert working group made of experts from around Australia and New Zealand, to develop the draft ICIP protection framework which includes a Cultural Protocol for the native foods and botanicals industry as well as a model Access and Benefits Sharing Agreement.

This framework will be further developed and finalised through the co-governance arrangements in 2022-23, with a view to strengthening the ICIP protection framework as the foundation for greater recognition and inclusion of Traditional Owners within the industry going forward.

U.S. Department of the
Interior, 2020, Post-bushfire
recovery in Australia,
Public Domain Mark 1.0





Patrick Kavanagh, 2018,
Flame Robin (*Petroica
phoenecia*), CC By 2.0



Alexandra Hill,
Wombat State Forest,
CC By 2.0

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

CONVENING AND FACILITATING TRADITIONAL OWNER VOICES TOGETHER

CEO FORUM

The CEO Forum has continued during this reporting period, providing an invaluable forum for sharing information and experience across a range of policy and practical matters affecting Traditional Owner Corporations and their communities.

Over time the CEOs forum has been influential in developing stronger positioning of Traditional Owner voices into a range of policy areas, but equally has been developing a more networked approach, with a range of government and non-government 'guest speakers' to present on emerging areas of interest to develop new opportunities and insights.

Over the course of the year papers were presented and discussed with Corporation CEOs providing direction to the Federation on priorities and pathways and sharing insights and opportunities to support one another. Over 30 papers and presentations were considered during the 2021-22 year across a wide variety of topics including for example:

- Budget analysis
- Preferential Procurement
- Conservation Regulator
- Water reform
- Intellectual Property
- Biocultural diversity
- Land Management
- Economic Development (Yuma Yirramboi) strategy
- Major Event Review
- VAAF and Closing the Gap target areas.

DJAKITJUK DJANGA

In its third and final year, the Djakitjuk Djanga grant program continues to provide support to thirteen Aboriginal-owned businesses and organisations to implement native food and botanicals projects. Delivered by the Federation in partnership with Agriculture Victoria, the program contributes to the participation and leadership of Victoria's First Peoples in the development of a culturally authentic native food and botanicals industry. It builds on cultural knowledge and practice to help build sustainable food systems which are climate-aware, innovative, nutritious and resilient.

Djakitjuk Djanga means Country's Food in Dja Dja Wurrung language, acknowledging our deep and everlasting connection to Country and the native foods and botanicals of the land.

The Federation facilitated the Djakitjuk Djanga Community of Practice which brought together program participants to share knowledge and experience. Throughout the reporting period, the Community of Practice heard from sector experts on topics ranging from export opportunities and cooperative development, to product processing, manufacturing and distribution strategies, and seed collection and plant propagation methods.



TREATY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2017 in strongly advocating for the Treaty and the Treaty legislation, the Federation has continued to undertake Treaty Engagement work to provide a foundational resource for the Assembly and Traditional Owners, as a key way to draw on the Federation's unique position and understanding of the Victorian political and legal context and building on our extensive experience of the Native Title Act and Traditional Owner Settlement Act.

The development of our Treaty Discussion Papers was funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to support Aboriginal Victorians with the transition to treaty. Six Discussion Papers reflect the insights and questions posed during Traditional Owner treaty engagement meetings and in our ongoing work with Traditional Owners since the project started in 2019.

The final Discussion Paper was delivered during this reporting period.

Treaty Discussion Paper 6: A Comprehensive Treaty Model for Victoria

The Federation has developed a series of five discussion papers, each examining the intersection of treaty with longstanding Traditional Owner aspirations. This sixth and final paper in the series builds on the work of the previous papers to present a proposal for a comprehensive treaty model for Victoria.

During the period in which the papers have been developed, the discussion around Treaty has advanced considerably. This has principally been driven by the establishment of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria and the commencement of negotiations under the Treaty Act. Indeed, many of the positions put forward in the series of papers produced by the Federation are now under formal consideration as part of ongoing negotiations.

This includes:

- the proposal to establish a state-wide democratic Aboriginal body (referred to in these papers as the Treaty Representative Body), that has meaningful decision-making powers;
- the adoption of a framework that includes both a State-wide Treaty, to cover state-wide matters, and Local Treaties, through which Traditional Owners can negotiate local treaties to reflect their individual needs and priorities.

The final paper argues that it is the State-wide Treaty that will provide the foundation for a comprehensive treaty model of which there are the three fundamental elements:

- i. an Aboriginal parliament and public service;
- ii. the entrenchment of Aboriginal rights; and
- iii. a framework for Local Treaties.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT YARNING CIRCLES

The Federation's Yarning Circles with Traditional Owner Corporations have been supported by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. They have explored economic development initiatives, challenges, opportunities and interests and informs our advocacy work and participation in a range of forums including the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council.

Following a period of investigation during the first half of the reporting period, and discussions with Traditional Owner Corporations, the Federation identified a number of key priorities for economic development that are emerging and require further policy and programmatic support.

One of the themes of these discussions was the desire for sharing knowledge, but also to access and have expertise to talk to. Over the year, this culminated in the convening of a series of three yarning circles.

The focus of the yarning circles in sharing knowledge was to support information and analysis of several emerging and rapidly developing sectors with potential for economic development.

Bringing together Traditional Owners and industry experts to explore these opportunities and related nation based and collective strategies, the Yarning Circles looked at:

- Opportunities, challenges and strategies for Victorian Traditional Owners to benefit from the expansion of the renewable energy sector
- Culturally safe pathways for Traditional Owners to access private sector resourcing for their Caring for Country programs, including carbon and biodiversity markets and impact investment.
- Tourism development, and defining the business readiness priorities, including for support in development of training to have the 'stories' and business systems in place (held in early 2022-23)

Further work is being promoted to follow through on these sectors, in particular through developing understanding within relevant departments on where they can invest time and resource to support Traditional Owner interests.

This has included submissions on the renewable energy strategies such as the offshore wind as well as promoting a stronger emphasis in the preparations for the Commonwealth Games and the potential business and tourism opportunities and legacy and development of a stronger and principles-based Indigenous Procurement Policy for Victoria.





FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-2022

Louissa Rogers,
Glenelg River Estuary,
CC By 2.0

Alexandra Hill,
Wombat State Forest,
CC By 2.0



**Federation of Victorian Traditional
Owner Corporation Limited**

ABN 40 164 514 121

**Annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2022**



Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited

ABN 40 164 514 121

Annual report - 30 June 2022

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Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Directors' report
30 June 2022

The directors presents their report on the consolidated entity consisting of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited and the entities it controlled at the end of, or during, the year ended 30 June 2022. Throughout the report, the consolidated entity is referred to as the group.

Directors

The following persons were directors of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Matthew Burns	Resigned 11 February 2022
Dan Turnbull	Continued – Appointed 17 May 2018
Rodney Carter	Continued – Appointed 6 November 2018
Trent Nelson	Resigned 22 November 2021
Robert Ogden	Continued – Appointed 20 November 2018
Glendle Schrader	Resigned 20 May 2022
Marcus Clarke	Continued – Appointed 5 February 2020
Norman Wilson	Continued – Appointed 5 February 2020
Perry Wandin	Continued – Appointed 5 August 2020
Grant Hansen	Resigned 26 November 2021
Nicole Cassar	Continued – Appointed 27 May 2021
Cassandra Lewis	Continued – Appointed 22 November 2021

Meetings of directors

The numbers of meetings of the group's board of directors and of each board committee held during the year ended 30 June 2022, and the numbers of meetings attended by each director were:

		Full meetings of directors	
		Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Directors	Appointing Member		
Matthew Burns	Taungurung Lands and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	3	3
Dan Turnbull	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	5	3
Rodney Carter	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation	5	4
Trent Nelson	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation	1	-
Robert Ogden	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	5	3
Glendle Schrader	First People of Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation	5	5
Marcus Clarke	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	5	4
Norman Wilson	First People of Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation	5	-
Perry Wandin	Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	5	-
Grant Hansen	Taungurung Lands and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	1	-
Nicole Cassar	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	5	5
Cassandra Lewis	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation	2	2

Principal activities

The group engages with various government agencies to provide services relating to national resource management and economic development, specifically in relation to traditional owner interests.



Strategies

Four Pillars

Advocacy:

Advocate for rights, interests and objectives of Traditional Owner Corporations to strengthen policy outcomes and build opportunities through an informed and collective voice.

Accountability:

Being accountable to each other and ensuring government is accountable for enabling the principles of Aboriginal self-determination.

Nation Building:

Working with Traditional Owner Corporations to understand and support their sustainable development, creating greater capability and capacity to activate the rights, interests and objective of their people.

Knowledge Sharing:

Enable more connected, informed and innovative Traditional Owner Corporations and communities by supporting knowledge, systems and practice development through the promotion of resources, events and information sharing opportunities.

Results of operations

The entity reported a surplus from ordinary activities amounting to \$1,349,412 (2021: \$1,517,950) for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Dividends - Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited

No dividends have been paid during the financial year (2021: \$nil).

Members' liability

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. As at 30 June 2022, the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$7.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

Koori HR Pty Limited, in which the company had a 51% indirect interest, was deregistered on 26 July 2021.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected the group's operations, results or state of affairs, or may do so in future years.

Event since the end of the financial year

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited ceased to be the sole member of First Nations Legal & Research Service Ltd (FLNRS) as of 1 July 2022. Directors of FNLRS become members as per the Constitution.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected the group's operations, results or state of affairs, or may do so in future years.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

The directors expect that the group will continue to carry out its principal activities as detailed above. There are no other known or likely developments which the directors foresee which the directors wish to disclose at this time.

Environmental regulation

The group is not affected by any significant environmental regulation in respect of its operations.

Insurance of officers and indemnities

During the year, the group paid a premium which provides indemnity for the directors.

Proceedings on behalf of the company

No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001* for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the group, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the group is a party, for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the group for all or part of those proceedings.

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the group with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60 - 40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) Act 2012* is set out on page 4 and forms part of the Director's report.

Rounding of amounts

The company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Legislative Instrument 2016/191, relating to the 'rounding off' of amounts in the directors' report. Amounts in the directors' report have been rounded off in accordance with the instrument to the nearest dollar.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Rodney Carter
Chairperson

Marcus Clarke
Director

Melbourne
24 November 2022





Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2022, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited and the entities it controlled during the period.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Kennett'.

David Kennett
Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Melbourne
24 November 2022

PricewaterhouseCoopers, ABN 52 780 433 757
2 Riverside Quay, SOUTHBANK VIC 3006, GPO Box 1331, MELBOURNE VIC 3001
T: 61 3 8603 1000, F: 61 3 8603 1999, www.pwc.com.au

4

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited

ABN 40 164 514 121

Financial report - 30 June 2022

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These financial statements are the consolidated financial statements of the consolidated entity consisting of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries. A list of subsidiaries is included in note 18.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited's functional and presentation currency.

All amounts disclosed in the financial statements and notes have been rounded off to the nearest currency units unless otherwise stated.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited is a company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is:

12-14 Leveson St
North Melbourne VIC 3051

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 24 November 2022. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.



Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2022

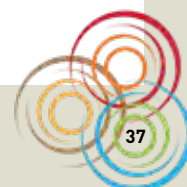
	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income			
Revenue from government	2	6,187,307	6,482,947
Project income	2	816,404	571,743
Interest		2,078	2,088
Other income	3	240,858	313,476
		<u>7,246,647</u>	<u>7,370,254</u>
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(4,759,070)	(4,870,841)
Depreciation expense		(385,155)	(458,801)
Consultants		(1,510,645)	(567,635)
Other occupancy expenses		(78,272)	(64,017)
Office expenses		(487,079)	(558,296)
TO - Claimant meeting expenses		(356,080)	(245,111)
Motor vehicle expenses		(33,104)	(29,230)
Other expenses		(123,004)	(120,911)
Finance costs	4	(11,886)	(16,085)
		<u>(7,744,295)</u>	<u>(6,930,927)</u>
Share of net profit of joint venture accounted for using equity method		1,308,783	1,375,418
Surplus before income tax		<u>811,135</u>	1,814,745
Income tax benefit/(expense)	5	538,277	(296,795)
Surplus for the year		<u>1,349,412</u>	<u>1,517,950</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year		<u>1,349,412</u>	<u>1,517,950</u>

The above consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Consolidated statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	8,488,900	8,175,842
Trade receivables	7	68,220	100,251
Franking credit receivables		152,750	38,690
Other current assets	8	87,300	74,594
Total current assets		8,797,170	8,389,377
Non-current assets			
Investments accounted for using the equity method	9	3,457,557	2,352,774
Property, plant and equipment	10	12,298	103,335
Right-of-use assets	11	496,202	779,750
Total non-current assets		3,966,057	3,235,859
Total assets		12,763,227	11,625,236
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	11	273,656	261,109
Trade and other payables	12	964,196	1,008,138
Contract liabilities		5,435,666	4,821,144
Employee benefit obligations	13	823,715	733,432
Provisions	14	93,548	92,043
Total current liabilities		7,590,781	6,915,866
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	11	212,942	486,598
Deferred tax liabilities		-	538,277
Employee benefit obligations	13	81,078	155,481
Total non-current liabilities		294,020	1,180,356
Total liabilities		7,884,801	8,096,222
Net assets		4,878,426	3,529,014
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		4,878,426	3,529,014
Total equity		4,878,426	3,529,014

The above consolidated statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Consolidated statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2022

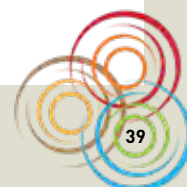
	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	<u>2,011,064</u>	<u>2,011,064</u>
Surplus for the year	1,517,950	1,517,950
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	<u>1,517,950</u>	<u>1,517,950</u>
Balance at 30 June 2021	<u>3,529,014</u>	<u>3,529,014</u>
Balance at 1 July 2021	<u>3,529,014</u>	<u>3,529,014</u>
Surplus for the year	1,349,412	1,349,412
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	<u>1,349,412</u>	<u>1,349,412</u>
Balance at 30 June 2022	<u>4,878,426</u>	<u>4,878,426</u>

The above consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Consolidated statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from course of operations		8,435,819	10,681,905
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(8,066,183)</u>	<u>(7,023,287)</u>
		369,636	3,658,618
Interest received		2,078	2,088
Interest paid		<u>(11,886)</u>	<u>(16,085)</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities		<u>359,828</u>	<u>3,644,621</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		<u>(10,570)</u>	<u>(29,049)</u>
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		20,909	-
Dividends received from joint venture, inclusive of franking credits refunded		<u>204,000</u>	<u>230,379</u>
Net cash inflow from investing activities		<u>214,339</u>	<u>201,330</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Principal elements of lease payments		<u>(261,109)</u>	<u>(247,496)</u>
Net cash (outflow) from financing activities		<u>(261,109)</u>	<u>(247,496)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			
		313,058	3,598,455
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>8,175,842</u>	<u>4,577,387</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	<u>8,488,900</u>	<u>8,175,842</u>

The above consolidated statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



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1 Summary of significant accounting policies

This note provides a list of all significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The financial statements are for the group consisting of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries.

(a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*. Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

(i) Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements

The consolidated financial statements of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited group comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

(ii) Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost basis.

(iii) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

(iv) Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the group.

(v) New and amended standards adopted by the group

The group has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time in their annual reporting period commencing 1 July 2021:

- AASB 2020-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2 [AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 9, AASB 16 & AASB 139]*
- AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities*
- AASB 2020-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments [AASB 1060]*.

The group adopted AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* in the current year. Other than the change in disclosure requirements, the adoption of AASB 1060 has no significant impact on the financial statements because the Company previously complied with *Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements* in preparing its financial statements.

The other amendments listed above also did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in prior periods and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future periods.



1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(b) Principles of consolidation and equity accounting

(i) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities (including structured entities) over which the group has control. The group controls an entity where the group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for business combinations by the group other than for business combinations involving entities or businesses under common control, where predecessor accounting is used.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the transferred asset. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

The investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost in the separate financial statements of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited.

(ii) Joint arrangements

Under AASB 11 *Joint Arrangements* investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures. The classification depends on the contractual rights and obligations of each investor, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement. Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited has both joint operations and joint ventures.

Joint ventures

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method (see (iii) below), after initially being recognised at cost in the consolidated statement of financial position.

(iii) Equity method

Under the equity method of accounting, the investments are initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise the group's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses of the investee in profit or loss, and the group's share of movements in other comprehensive income of the investee in other comprehensive income. Dividends received or receivable from joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment.

Where the group's share of losses in an equity-accounted investment equals or exceeds its interest in the entity, including any other unsecured long-term receivables, the group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the other entity.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the group and its joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the group's interest in these entities. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of equity-accounted investees have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

The carrying amount of equity-accounted investments is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in note 1(f).

(iv) Changes in ownership interests

When the group ceases to consolidate or equity account for an investment because of a loss of control, joint control or significant influence, any retained interest in the entity is remeasured to its fair value with the change in carrying amount recognised in profit or loss. This fair value becomes the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an joint venture or financial asset.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Revenue recognition

The group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the group and specific criteria have been met for each of the group's activities as described below. The group bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities using the methods outlined below.

Government grants

Revenue from government is recognised when there is sufficiently specific promises to meet according to the agreement between the group and the government. When there is a sufficiently, specific promise, the revenue is recognised as the promise is satisfied and conditions fulfilled being the expenditure incurred to perform the promises as specified in the agreement.

Where there is not sufficiently specific promise to satisfy and be performed, the grant is recognised as income when the group obtains control or the right to receive the contribution.

Project income

Project income is recognised in the accounting period in which the services are rendered being the expenditure is incurred to fulfill the performance obligation.

Other income

Other income consists of various, miscellaneous and one-off items, including bookkeeping service fees, legal fees and cost reimbursements.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the group is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

However, the company's subsidiary Federation Enterprises Pty Ltd is a for profit entity and is subject to income tax.

The income tax expense or credit for the year is the tax payable on the current year's taxable income based on the applicable income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences and to unused tax losses.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognised if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred income tax is also not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting year and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in foreign operations where the company is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.



1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Income tax (continued)

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and when the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority. Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss.

(e) Leases

Leases are recognised as a right-of-use asset and a corresponding liability at the date at which the leased asset is available for use by the group.

The group leases office building. Rental contract is made for fixed period of 10 years.

Contracts may contain both lease and non-lease components. The group allocates the consideration in the contract to the lease and non-lease components based on their relative stand-alone prices. However, for leases of real estate for which the group is a lessee, it has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components and instead accounts for these as a single lease component.

Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants other than the security interests in the leased assets that are held by the lessor. Leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable,
- variable lease payment that are based on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date,
- amounts expected to be payable by the group under residual value guarantees.

Lease payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options are also included in the measurement of the liability.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for leases in the group, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the individual lessee would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions.

To determine the incremental borrowing rate, the group:

- where possible, uses recent third-party financing received by the individual lessee as a starting point, adjusted to reflect changes in financing conditions since third-party financing was received,
- uses a build-up approach that starts with a risk-free interest rate adjusted for credit risk for leases held by Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited, which does not have recent third-party financing, and
- makes adjustments specific to the lease, e.g. term, country, currency and security.

The group is exposed to potential future increases in variable lease payments based on an index or rate, which are not included in the lease liability until they take effect. When adjustments to lease payments based on an index or rate take effect, the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(e) Leases (continued)

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability,
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received,
- any initial direct costs, and
- restoration costs.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis.

Payments associated with short-term leases and all leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in profit or loss. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

(f) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting year.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(h) Trade receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from customers for goods sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and therefore are all classified as current.

The group holds trade receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. The group applies the AASB9 *Financial Instruments* simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

(i) Financial instruments

Financial assets

(i) Classification

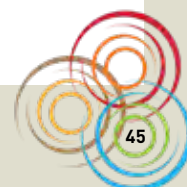
The group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through OCI or through profit or loss), and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

The group classifies its financial assets as at amortised cost only if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows, and



1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(i) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets (continued)

(i) Classification (continued)

- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

The group's financial assets at amortised cost includes cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables. The group does not have any financial assets measured subsequently at fair value (either through OCI or through profit or loss).

(ii) Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade date, being the date on which the group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

(iii) Measurement

At initial recognition, the group measures a financial asset at its fair value.

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised directly in profit or loss and presented in other gains/(losses) together with foreign exchange gains and losses. Impairment losses are presented as separate line item in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

(iv) Impairment

The group assesses on a forward-looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

For trade receivables, the group applies the simplified approach permitted by AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables, see note 1(h) for further details.

Financial liabilities

(i) Recognition and derecognition

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs. The group's financial liabilities include trade and other payables and borrowings.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

(ii) Measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the consolidated statement of financial position when, and only when, the group currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and it intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for as a separate asset is derecognised when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to profit or loss during the reporting year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost or revalued amounts of the assets, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
• Office fit out	20%
• Computers	40%
• Motor vehicles	20%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting year.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (note 1(f)).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in profit or loss.

(k) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the group prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Trade and other payables are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months from the reporting date. They are recognised initially at their fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting year. The discount rate used to determine the present value is a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

(m) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liabilities are presented as current employee benefit obligations in the consolidated statement of financial position.



1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Employee benefits (continued)

(ii) Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The group also has liabilities for long service leave and annual leave that are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the year in which the employees render the related service. These obligations are therefore measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting year using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and years of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting year of high-quality corporate bonds with terms and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. Remeasurements as a result of experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are recognised in profit or loss.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the consolidated statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

(iii) Post-employment obligations

The group pays contributions to publicly or privately administered defined contribution superannuation plans on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

(n) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

(o) Economic dependence

To the extent that the group performs functions prescribed by the *Native Title Act 1993(Cth)* it is dependent on the continued funding of its operations by the federal authority.

(p) Contract liabilities

Contract liability is the unutilised amounts of grants re-earned on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided on the conditions usually fulfilled within 12 months of receipt of the grant.

(q) Parent entity financial information

The financial information for the parent entity, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited, disclosed in note 21 has been prepared on the same basis as the consolidated financial statements, except as set out below.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(q) Parent entity financial information (continued)

Investments in subsidiaries and joint venture entities

Investments in subsidiaries and joint venture entities are accounted for at cost in the financial statements of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited. Dividends received from joint ventures are recognised in the parent entity's profit or loss when its right to receive the dividend is established.

2 Income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue from government	6,187,307	6,482,947
Project income	816,404	571,743
	<u>7,003,711</u>	<u>7,054,690</u>

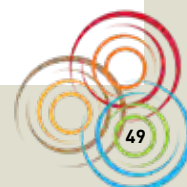
3 Other income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Franking credit refund	114,060	38,690
Other income	126,798	274,786
	<u>240,858</u>	<u>313,476</u>

Government COVID-19 cashflow boost income of \$nil (2021: \$100,000) is included in the 'other income' line items. There are no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attaching to these grants.

4 Finance costs

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<i>Finance costs</i>		
Interest on lease liabilities	11,886	16,085
Finance costs expensed	<u>11,886</u>	<u>16,085</u>



5 Income tax expense

(a) Income tax expense

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<i>Deferred income tax</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in deferred tax assets	182,989	(42,475)
(Decrease)/increase in deferred tax liabilities	<u>(721,266)</u>	<u>339,270</u>
Total deferred tax (benefit)/expense	(538,277)	296,795
Income tax (benefit)/expense	(538,277)	296,795

(b) Numerical reconciliation of income tax expense to prima facie tax payable

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Profit from continuing operations before income tax expense	811,135	1,814,745
Tax at the Australian tax rate of 30% (2021 - 30%)	243,341	544,424
Tax effect of amounts which are not deductible (taxable) in calculating taxable income:		
Current year tax losses not recognised as a deferred tax asset	16,691	-
Net deferred taxes not recognised	(538,277)	(102,769)
Non-assessable income/non deductible losses from not-for-profit entities	135,322	(144,860)
Other permanent differences	(2,719)	-
Equity accounted profit	(392,635)	-
Income tax (benefit)/expense	(538,277)	296,795

(c) Tax losses

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Unused tax losses for which no deferred tax asset has been recognised	577,368	-
Potential tax benefit @ 30.0%	<u>173,210</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	<u>8,488,900</u>	<u>8,175,842</u>

7 Trade receivables

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	<u>68,220</u>	<u>100,251</u>

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Notes to the consolidated financial statements
30 June 2022
(continued)

8 Other current assets

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Prepayments	78,340	73,321
Other receivables	8,960	1,273
	87,300	74,594

9 Investments accounted for using the equity method

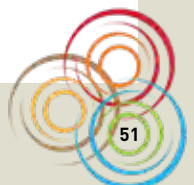
	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Investment in Barpa Pty Ltd	3,457,557	2,352,774

Movement of investments in Bapra Pty Ltd:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Investment in Barpa Pty Ltd		
Opening balance	2,352,774	1,130,355
Add: Share of profit	1,308,783	1,375,419
Less: Dividend paid	(204,000)	(153,000)
Closing balance	3,457,557	2,352,774

10 Property, plant and equipment

	Office fit out	Motor vehicles	Computers	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
At 30 June 2021				
Cost	35,617	128,342	302,291	466,250
Accumulated depreciation	(10,313)	(109,289)	(243,313)	(362,915)
Net book amount	25,304	19,053	58,978	103,335
Year ended 30 June 2022				
Opening net book amount	25,304	19,053	58,978	103,335
Additions	-	-	10,570	10,570
Depreciation charge	(19,211)	(19,051)	(63,345)	(101,607)
Closing net book amount	6,093	2	6,203	12,298
At 30 June 2022				
Cost	30,460	101,446	312,859	444,765
Accumulated depreciation	(24,367)	(101,444)	(306,656)	(432,467)
Net book amount	6,093	2	6,203	12,298



11 Leases

This note provides information for leases where the group is a lessee.

(a) Amounts recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position

The consolidated statement of financial position shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Right-of-use assets		
Buildings	496,202	779,750
Lease liabilities		
Current	273,656	261,109
Non-current	212,942	486,598
	486,598	747,707

Future lease payments in relation to lease liabilities as at year end are as follows:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Within one year	279,634	271,490
Later than one year but not later than five years	214,409	494,044
Later than five years	-	-
	494,043	765,534

Additions to the right-of-use assets during the 2022 financial year were \$nil (2021: \$nil).

(b) Amounts recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets		
Buildings	283,548	283,548

12 Trade and other payables

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	665,436	758,747
Sundry creditors and accruals	298,760	249,391
	964,196	1,008,138

12 Trade and other payables (continued)

The following table shows the carrying amounts of trade and other payables between financial liabilities and non-financial liabilities:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	665,436	758,747
Non-financial liabilities	298,760	249,391
	964,196	1,008,138

13 Employee benefit obligations

	2022			2021		
	Current	Non-current	Total	Current	Non-current	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Leave obligations	823,715	81,078	904,793	733,432	155,481	888,913

(a) Leave obligations

The leave obligations cover the group's liabilities for long service leave and annual leave which are classified as either other long-term benefits or short-term benefits, as explained in note 1(m).

(b) Amounts recognised in profit and loss in relation to defined contribution plans

The group has recognised expenses of \$355,249 in the current period (2021: \$363,692) in relation to defined contribution plans which are included in employee benefit expenses in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

14 Provisions

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Make good provision	93,548	92,043

Movements in provisions

Movements in make good provision during the financial year are set out below:

	Make good provision
	\$
2022	
Carrying amount at start of year	92,043
Charged to profit or loss	1,505
Carrying amount at end of year	93,548

15 Contingencies

The group had no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

16 Commitments

The group had no capital commitments at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).



17 Related party transactions

(a) Parent entities

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited is the ultimate parent entity and controlling party. The parent entity members are Traditional Owner Corporations.

(b) Key management personnel compensation

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Total compensation	1,339,740	1,387,354

(c) Transactions with other related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

18 Interests in other entities

(a) Material subsidiaries

The group's principal subsidiaries at 30 June 2022 are set out below. Unless otherwise stated, they have share capital consisting solely of ordinary shares that are held directly by the group, and the proportion of ownership interests held equals the voting rights held by the group. The country of incorporation or registration is also their principal place of business.

Name of entity	Place of business/ country of incorporation	Ownership interest held by the group		Principal activities
		2022 %	2021 %	
First Nations Legal and Research Services Ltd.	Australia	100		Provision of professional services to indigenous people
Federation Enterprises Pty Ltd	Australia	100		Provision of services to 100 traditional owner

(b) Interests in joint ventures

Set out below are the joint ventures of the group as at 30 June 2022. The entities listed below have share capital consisting solely of ordinary shares, which are held directly by the group. The country of incorporation or registration is also their principal place of business, and the proportion of ownership interest is the same as the proportion of voting rights held.

Name of entity	Country of incorporation	Measurement method	Equity holding	
			2022 %	2021 %
Barpa Pty Ltd	Australia	Equity method	51	51
On Country Heritage and Consulting Pty Ltd	Australia	Equity method	-	55
Koori HR Pty Ltd	Australia	Equity method	-	50

18 Interests in other entities (continued)

(b) Interests in joint ventures (continued)

On Country Heritage and Consulting Pty Ltd, in which the company had a 55% interest, was deregistered on 20 August 2020.

Koori HR Pty Ltd, in which the company had a 50% interest, was deregistered on 26 July 2021.

19 Events occurring after the reporting period

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited ceased to be the sole member of First Nations Legal & Research Service Ltd (FLNRS) as of 1 July 2022. Directors of FNLRS become members as per the Constitution.

No other matter or circumstance has occurred subsequent to year end that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the group or economic entity in subsequent financial years.

20 Financial assets held on trust

The organisation holds cash on deposit for a number of third parties on trust. These assets are not recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position as in substance they are owned by third parties. The amounts held in trust on behalf of these third parties are as follows:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Liability to third parties	5,124,731	5,061,679
Represented by:		
Term deposits and Online Savings account	5,124,731	5,061,679



21 Parent entity financial information

(a) Summary financial information

The individual financial statements for the parent entity show the following aggregate amounts:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Statement of financial position		
Current assets	5,274,475	5,850,848
Non-current assets	9,724	35,278
Total assets	5,284,199	5,886,126
Current liabilities	4,017,192	4,484,339
Non-current liabilities	9,370	41,328
Total liabilities	4,026,562	4,525,667
Net assets	1,257,637	1,360,459
<i>Shareholders' equity</i>		
Retained earnings	1,257,637	1,360,459
Total equity	1,257,637	1,360,459
(Loss)/profit for the year	(102,822)	803,329
Total comprehensive (loss)/income	(102,822)	803,329

(b) Guarantees entered into by the parent entity

The parent entity did not provide any financial guarantees as at 30 June 2022 or 30 June 2021.

(c) Contingent liabilities of the parent entity

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 or 30 June 2021.

(d) Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant or equipment

The parent entity did not have any contractual commitments as at 30 June 2022 or 30 June 2021.

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited
Directors' declaration
30 June 2022

In the directors' opinion:

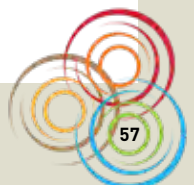
- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 5 to 26 are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - (i) complying with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
 - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the group's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date, and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Rodney Carter
Chairperson

Marcus Clarke
Director

Melbourne
24 November 2022





Independent auditor's report

To the members of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited

Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporation Limited (the Company) and its controlled entities (together the Group) is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

What we have audited

The Group financial report comprises:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- the directors' declaration.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of management and the directors for the financial report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.



A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'PricewaterhouseCoopers'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'DK'.

David Kennett
Partner

Melbourne
24 November 2022



Alexandra Hill,
Wombat State Forest,
CC By 2.0

