



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

MEETING NO. 2023-4 2023-5 & AGM

HELD ON 30 November 2023, 7 December 2023

Board Matters

1. The Board was pleased to reappoint Cassandra Lewis as the Chair of the Board for 2024.
2. The Board accepted the finance report, including the ongoing position and solvency of the organisation.
3. In preparation for the AGM the Board heard from the auditor on the Consolidated and Stand-alone Financial Statements, including the sound internal systems and processes. They were approved and duly signed.
4. The Board noted the Federation Enterprises report, and the increasing equity position. The Board also:
 - endorsed the Federation Enterprises Strategic Plan 2024-27.
 - approved the appointment of ongoing and new directors for Federation Enterprises, and recognised the outstanding contribution and of outgoing Chair of Federation Enterprises Graham Atkinson and Deputy Chair Vicki Clark.
5. The Board approved the Federation Strategic Plan 2024-27 in particular recognising:
 - the long term objectives for the success of Traditional Owner Corporations in terms of:
 - Embedding Recognition
 - Empowering self-determination
 - Enabling capacity
 - Operational strategies over the next three years to focus on:
 - a services-orientation to give more focus on financially viable and sustainable operations
 - continuing to leverage and develop areas where there has been sound achievements and experience gained over the last several years.
 - broadening the areas of work but also the partners, funders, and client base.
6. The Board also endorsed the Annual Report for 2022-23.

Corporate Matters

7. Through the CEO Report it was noted that the Federation had relocated to new premises in Carlton, noting that the lease was coming to an end in the North Melbourne office and recognising the changing nature of flexible work arrangements.
8. Key work areas for the quarter included:
 - Establishing a flood recovery grants program with ERV
 - Developing the new Closing the Gaps Partnership Forum, representing two sectors 'economic development' and 'Land and Waters' with an initial focus on reporting on key themes and issues to drive the forum work program.
 - Yoorrook – preparing a comprehensive submission for the 'land justice' theme focusing on the systemic issues and developing recommendations for regulatory, policy and programmatic change and recognition.
 - Developing the strategic relationship with the First Peoples' Assembly, particularly as the new Assembly settles in to the work program and the Self-determination fund is activated.
9. The work on the program of research into the Victorian Aboriginal economy is now in full swing, with the initial tranche of work expected early in the new year, and the more detailed work, particularly in relation to the barriers, opportunities and strategies for policy and institutional and systemic arrangements.
10. Meetings with Ministers (Vic) who have recently taken on new portfolios of key interest, and participating in a delegation to Canberra to meet with Ministers discussing a range of issues including renewable energy, water and cultural heritage reforms.
11. The Board also discussed strategic positioning, commenting that "our strength is our members", and while each TOC is different, there is value in ensuring that support isn't reduced and that the broad policy can be applied at individual Nation level.

AGM 2023

12. The Members convened and as there were no special resolutions, and having heard the details through the Board:
 - Approved the Minutes from 2022
 - Received the Annual Financial Statements 2023
 - Appointed the auditor for 2024.



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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we work on as the First People of this country.