



Federation of
Victorian Traditional
Owner Corporations

Media Statement

Wednesday 6 March

Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grant Program

Six Aboriginal organisations from across Victoria will deliver flood recovery projects to assist their communities and heal Country, after being awarded grants through the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage (ACH) Flood Recovery Grant Program.

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is pleased to deliver the million-dollar ACH Flood Recovery Grant Program in partnership with funding body Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV).

“Caring for Country and healing community are central to how we live our culture as Aboriginal people. The terrible impact of climate change on our landscape, be it floods or fire or rising temperatures; impacts all plants, animals and people who live on Country. We are proud as a Federation of Aboriginal corporations to help by providing \$800,000 of assistance.”

Paul Paton, Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

The grant program aims to assist Aboriginal communities affected by the October 2022 Victorian floods, which caused devastation across much of the State.

It recognises the unique impact that such flood events have on Aboriginal communities and seeks to strengthen the resilience of communities and Country to respond to future events.

Grant recipients have taken the lead and developed their own community-led solutions to address flood impacts and drive recovery.

“The Aboriginal Community and Moogji is grateful for assistance with easing the burden of flood recovery works to our Bonang Road site. The 2022 floods followed the trauma from the 19/20 Bushfires and Covid, tripling our need for resilience and challenges we have faced as a community in the Far East.”

Bec Rotherham, Community Development Team Leader
Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc. (Moogji)

Grant recipients will deliver projects that address the needs of flood-affected Aboriginal communities, including infrastructure repair, cultural heritage protection, impact assessments and capacity building to better respond to future flood events.

The six organisations to receive funding through the ACH Flood Recovery Grant Program are listed below and more details on their programs can be found [here](#):

- Barengi Gadjin Land Council
- Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
- Moogji Aboriginal Council
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

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About the Program Projects

More information about the ACH Flood Recovery Grant Program can be found at <https://fvtoc.com.au/sections/flood-recovery-grant-program/>

About the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

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

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

About Paul Paton

Paul is a Gunnai and Monaro man with a long involvement in reconnecting individuals and communities with language, culture and identity. He has held several executive roles and directorships including as the Executive Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and as a Director on the Board of First Nations Legal & Research Services.

Paul is committed to building on the Federation's success as a key organisation that strengthens the voice of Traditional Owners in Victoria. He brings his knowledge, skills and networks to work closely with Traditional Owners across the State to support their aspirations for community and Country whilst taking up the challenge for self-determination and Treaty.

Media Contact

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