

Australian Law Reform Commission
PO Box 209
Flinders Lane,
Victoria 8009

21 July 2025

Dear Commissioners,

SUBMISSION TO REVIEW OF THE FUTURE ACTS REGIME

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (the Federation) welcomes the opportunity to make the below short submission to your Review of the Future Acts Regime, and commends the Commission on initiating what we hope will be significant reform to translate Traditional Owners' rights into self-determined economic prosperity.

About the Federation

The Federation is the state-wide body progressing the rights and interests of Victoria's 12 formally recognised Traditional Owner groups.¹ We work towards policy and regulatory settings that remove barriers to Traditional Owner groups exercising their rights, including contributing research and policy input on rights-based economic development for Traditional Owner groups, with a particular, but non-exclusive, focus on Victoria.

Endorsement of First Nations Legal and Research Services' submissions

The Federation endorses in full the submission of First Nations Legal and Research Services (FNLRS). We urge the Commission to adopt in its recommendations FNLRS' submission's focus on rights and agreement-making, and its call to better resource Traditional Owner organisations.

Significance of Traditional Owner Corporations to Aboriginal economic development

The Federation believes strongly in a rights-based approach to Traditional Owner groups' economic development, and frames Victorian Aboriginal economic prosperity as a self-determined venture led by autonomous, independent Nations – over wealth-generating for individuals. The Traditional Owner organisations that hold collective rights in land on behalf of their communities are integral actors in economic development: they are the representative and inclusive community structures with cultural and legal authority to make decisions for Country and community. Any social, cultural and economic outcomes for First Nations people in Australia necessarily must flow through these representative organisations. The Federation strongly supports reform that enables greater resourcing for and agreement-making with Traditional Owner Corporations.

¹ Formal recognition is achieved through appointment as a Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic); a positive native title determination under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth); or an agreement made with the State of Victoria under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic), which makes the Traditional Owner group that is party to the agreement a Registered Aboriginal Party. Victoria has 12 Registered Aboriginal Parties; five of those are Prescribed Bodies Corporate holding native title rights on behalf of Traditional Owner groups.

Further reading

The Federation has contributed extensive policy thinking on the rights-based First Nations economy and the requirement for economic independence to drive Traditional Owner groups' self-determined directions. Please see:

- [Submission to Yoorrook Justice's Commission's economic prosperity inquiry](#)
- [Submission to JSCATSI's inquiry into First Nations economic development](#)
- [Traditional Owner Economic Development Roadmap](#)

We would welcome the opportunity to speak more to this thinking and thank the Commission for the opportunity to contribute.

For further discussion about this submission, please contact kaley.nicholson@fvtoc.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Kaley Nicholson
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