

Election Priorities

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations calls on all candidates and political parties to commit to three practical priorities that will strengthen Traditional Owner communities and deliver long-term benefits for all Victorians.

These priorities are non-partisan, evidence-based, and focused on building stronger communities, economies, and landscapes across the state.



About the Federation

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is the independent statewide voice for Traditional Owner groups in Victoria. Through advocacy, policy development, and service delivery, we work to advance Traditional Owners' rights, interests, and priorities.

About Traditional Owner Corporations

Traditional Owner groups are legally recognised across almost 80 per cent of Victoria. Traditional Owner Corporations are representative, membership-based organisations that hold recognised rights and responsibilities on behalf of their communities and provide culturally authoritative leadership for Country.

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Support Traditional Owner Nation-building

Traditional Owner communities are Nations, with their own languages, cultures, governance systems, histories, and aspirations for the future. Many have spent decades rebuilding their Nations, despite significant barriers, and must be supported to continue Nation (re)-building.

Increase economic participation

Traditional Owners are too often viewed solely as stakeholders rather than as economic partners, investors, employers, and business leaders. Unlocking Traditional Owner economic participation will create opportunities for communities while strengthening Victoria's economy.

Strengthen service delivery through culture

Traditional Owners hold unique knowledge, expertise, and practices that can improve government decision-making and deliver better, more effective services.

The role of government

- Investing in Traditional Owner representative organisations to strengthen governance, leadership, and community development as critical building blocks for better engagement and community resilience.
- Advancing agreement-making processes, recognising it as important mechanisms for economic development, self-determination, and stronger regional partnerships.
- Strengthening the policy settings for, and removing legislative and regulatory barriers that constrain, Traditional Owners' participation in, and contribution to, regional planning, preparedness and economic potential.
- Supporting agreement-making between Traditional Owners and industry that create sustainable economic opportunities from land, water, and natural resources.
- Ensuring Traditional Owners are involved in the planning, development, and ownership of major government-regulated assets and public infrastructure.
- Establishing clear expectations for partnership and benefit-sharing in emerging industries, including renewable energy, critical minerals, and AI-enabling infrastructure – recognising that partnership enables social license in emerging economies, which de-risks investment for government and industry.
- Embedding environmental, social, and governance principles in public and private projects to recognise the value of Traditional Owner participation and improve long-term outcomes.
- Investing in cultural fire practices and removing barriers to their implementation, helping to reduce bushfire risk while improving biodiversity and landscape health.
- Supporting Traditional Owner-led water management and removing barriers to cultural water practices that strengthen ecosystems and water security.
- Embedding Traditional Owner knowledge and holistic approaches across government policy and service delivery.

Why it matters

Strong Traditional Owner institutions create stronger communities, legitimate and more effective partnerships, and better long-term outcomes for Victoria's regions.

Greater Traditional Owner participation in the economy drives regional investment, job creation, economic resilience, and shared prosperity across Victoria – not only in Traditional Owner communities, but for everyone.

When Traditional Owner knowledge informs public policy, Victoria benefits from more sustainable environmental management, stronger communities, and better value for public investment.