

# VICTORIA'S TREATY

## Understanding Treaty

There is a lot of information circulating about Treaty.  
Here are answers to common questions from official sources.

## Why is Treaty significant?

Treaty is an agreement between First Peoples and the Victorian Government. Victoria's Statewide Treaty recognises First Peoples as the original custodians of the land and waters and creates new ways for First Peoples to have a say over the policies that impact them and their families.

## What is Treaty?

Treaty recognises the continuing connection First Peoples have with Country, culture and community. It also supports First Peoples to have a greater say in matters that affect their lives.

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## You may have heard different things about Treaty. Let's look at the facts.

**Does Treaty take away privately owned farms or homes?**

**No.** The Treaty does not take away the rights of private landholders or take private property from farmers. (1,2)

**Does Treaty create a third chamber of parliament?**

**No.** Gellung Warl is the new body created through Treaty. Gellung Warl is a representative body for First Peoples in Victoria. It is not another Victorian Parliament and cannot veto Victorian laws or government policy. (1)

**Does Treaty give First Nations Peoples greater rights than others?**

**No.** The Treaty is an agreement between the State of Victoria and First Peoples. All Victorians will remain equal before the law. Treaty responds to existing inequality through practical changes and solutions, to create a better and fairer future together. (3, 4)

**Does Treaty change the Australian or Victorian constitution?**

**No.** It does not change either Constitution. (1)

**Does Treaty introduce new taxes or individual financial reparations?**

**No.** The Treaty does not change tax laws or provide individual financial reparations. (1)

**What about Traditional Owner Treaties?**

Traditional Owner groups can negotiate their own Treaties with the Victorian Government about matters important to their Country and communities. (5, 6)



## Questions are okay. Good information matters.

You may hear different things about Treaty. It's important to get your information from official and reliable sources. Understanding helps us have respectful conversations.

**For current and accurate information, visit:**

First Peoples - State Relations: Victoria's Treaty  
[Firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty](https://firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty)

# WHAT TREATY DELIVERS



## FIRST PEOPLES REPRESENTATION

Gellung Warl provides permanent democratic representation for First Peoples in Victoria. (1)



## A NEW WAY OF WORKING TOGETHER

The Statewide Treaty establishes new ways for Gellung Warl and the Victorian Government to work together on matters effecting First Peoples. (1)



## CULTURE AND COUNTRY

The Treaty Recognises First Peoples' continuing connection to Country, culture, language and community.



## TRADITIONAL OWNER TREATIES

The framework allows Traditional Owner groups to negotiate Treaties about their Country, communities and aspirations. (5, 6)

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO LANDCARE?



### Landcare works on Country

We care for the land, water and biodiversity on Country that First Peoples have cared for over countless generations.



### Treaty is part of a changing relationship

It is about recognising history, rights and responsibilities and creating new ways of working together.



Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations can include matters relating to land, water and cultural heritage. (6)



For Landcare, understanding Treaty supports respectful relationships, listening, learning and working together on Country towards shared priorities.



## SOURCES AND REFERENCES

1. Victorian Government, *First Peoples - State Relations (2025) What Treaty delivers, Information about Victoria's Treaty and Statewide Treaty Act 2025.*
2. Victorian Legislative Assembly, *Second Reading Speech, Statewide Treaty Bill (2025) 26 March 2025.*
3. Treaty Victoria, *State of Victoria (Department of Premier and Cabinet), August 2025*
4. *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) section 8: every person is equal before the law and entitled to equal protection without discrimination. Treaty is an agreement (measure) to address disadvantage, which is not discrimination (s8(4)).*
5. Victorian Government, *First Peoples - State Relations (2025) Traditional Owners Treaties.*
6. *First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and State of Victoria (2023) Treaty Negotiation Framework, Part E.*