

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Welcome Pack



Victorian
Landcare
Program



VICTORIA
State
Government

MODULE 3 - VLFP Stakeholders

Landcare for Country & Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator





Terminology

Aboriginal

Exclusively refers to Australian Aboriginal peoples, and Torres Strait Islander exclusively refers to peoples from the Torres Strait Islands. Both Peoples may have connections in and outside of Victoria.

The use of the term

Indigenous

is retained in the names of programs, initiatives and publication titles and, unless otherwise noted, is inclusive of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Traditional Owner

An Aboriginal person who has traditional connection(s) to an identified geographical area of Country.

First Nations people or First Peoples

Refers to peoples or nations of people connected to an area prior to colonisation.

Historically, in Government publications there has been a variety of different terminology used when referring to First Peoples: Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people, First Nations and Indigenous. First Nations people is a more inclusive way to refer to the community and is becoming a popular way of referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. First Nations people represents all Indigenous People, as the First People/Traditional Owners of Country.

However, when speaking about a particular geographical area - Traditional Owners are to be exclusively acknowledged for that area and are the only People that can speak for that area. In this resource we have retained existing historical terminology when referring to the historic names of programs, initiatives and publications and their recommendations in order to be consistent with those documents.



Historical Context



Historically there has been a lack of First Nations communities participation in Landcare.



In 2004, only 12% of Victorian Landcare groups had ever engaged with Traditional Owners (Curtis & Cooke 2006).



Also in 2004, the first Indigenous Facilitator was employed by a Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to increase Aboriginal participation in natural resource management (NRM).



Between 2004 - 2007, CMAs began establishing Indigenous Facilitators, forming the Indigenous Facilitators Network (IFN) in Victoria.



In 2007, the IFN raised the issue of the lack of Aboriginal involvement in Landcare to the Victorian Government.

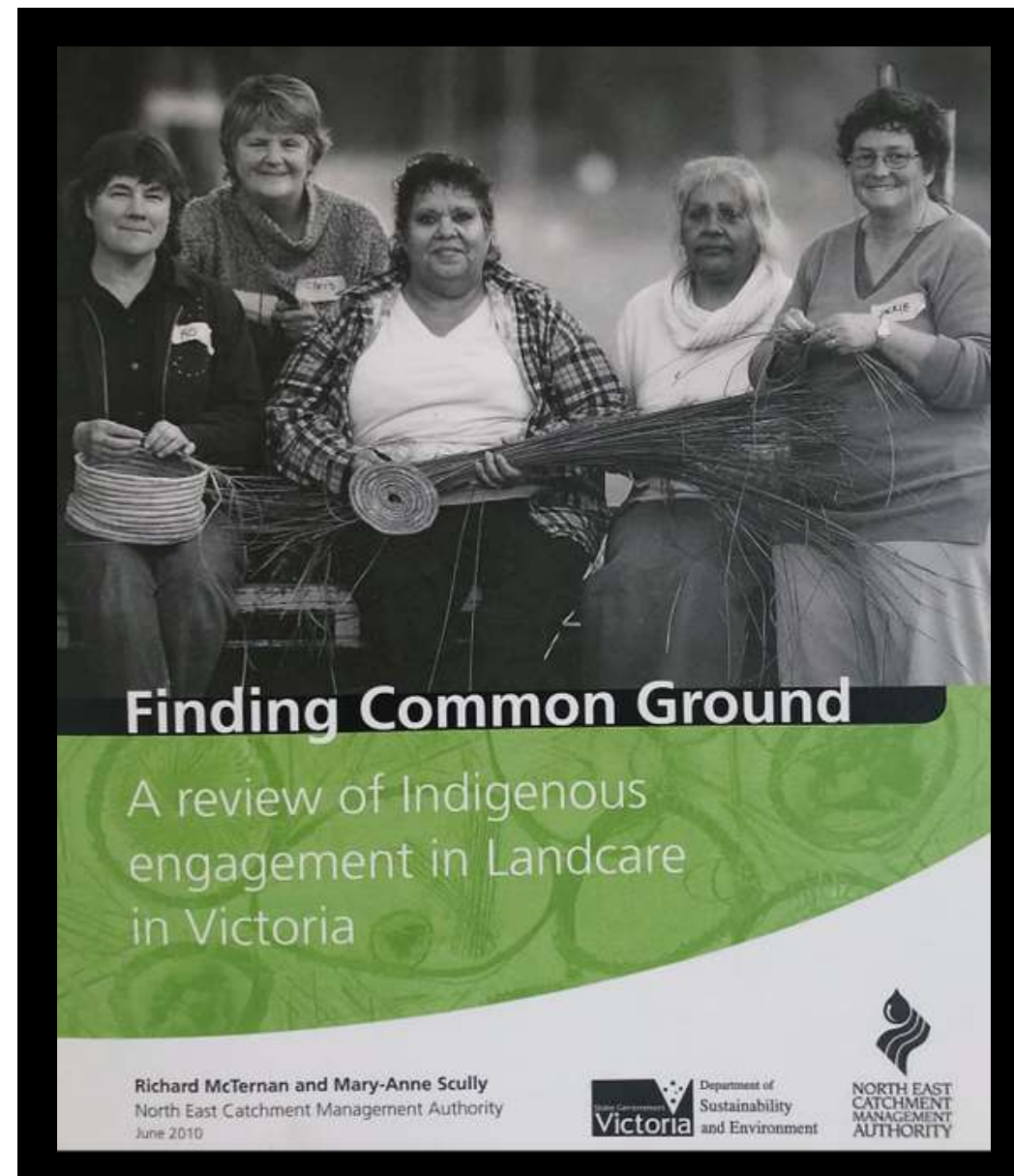


In response to IFN concerns, the then Department of Sustainability and Environment commissioned a review of Aboriginal involvement in Landcare - *Finding Common Ground Review* (2010).



Traditional Owner, Brett Clarke shares knowledge with school student and local Landcare Facilitator at Junior Landcare cultural awareness event. (Jackson Chatfield 2020)

Finding Common Ground



Finding Common Ground Cover Page (McTernan & Scully 2010)



In 2010, North East Catchment Management Authority's review Indigenous engagement in Landcare.



They present findings from literature review, survey, consultation, workshops and forums.



And then make 11 recommendations to increase participation in Landcare.

Finding Common Ground: Key Findings



Improve two-way communication between Aboriginal people & Landcare



Opportunities arise when common interests are identified



Adequate funding is needed to support Aboriginal participation in Landcare



Lack of awareness/understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation



Regions with Aboriginal Facilitator's have higher engagement



Ongoing engagement is critical for good results


Finding Common Ground: Recommendations



Produce an online resource to assist Landcare groups wanting to engage with Aboriginal groups



Establish a conduit position to support engagement



Improve information flow between Aboriginal communities & NRM agencies



Encourage ongoing cultural heritage awareness



Identify themes as a connection point for partnerships




Encourage Victorian NRM bodies & groups to involve Aboriginal people at planning stage



Explore alternative funding methods to create ongoing financial security to increase Aboriginal participation in Landcare



Utilise existing Landcare groups governance to support Aboriginal groups interest in land management



Continue to support and resource dedicated positions that encourage the involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM in Victoria

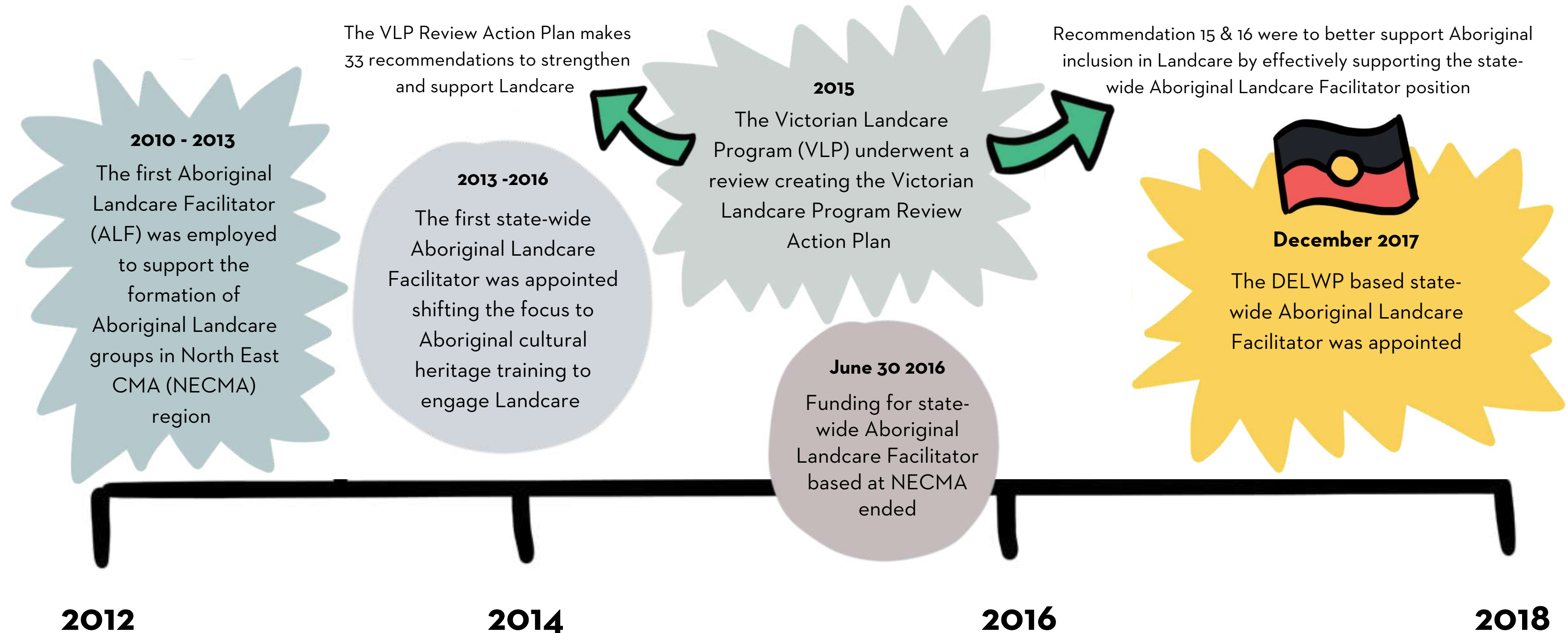


Secure commitment from DSE (DEECA), CMAs, VLP & Aboriginal communities for ongoing partnership



Implement communication campaign to demystify cultural heritage legislation, providing clarity to Landcare community

Timelines for Establishing a State-wide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator



Statewide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator

The Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator is a state-wide role that is funded through Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as part of the Victorian Landcare Program.

The position aims to establish and strengthen connections between Traditional Owner and First Nations communities and Landcare communities across Victoria.

The state-wide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator works with:

- Traditional Owners
- First Nations communities
- Government agencies
- Catchment Management Authorities, and
- the broader NRM community including Landcare groups/networks



Key Components

The state-wide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator's role has four key components essential to establishing connections between First Nations communities and Landcare:



Exploring opportunities



Enabling action



Supporting engagement



Building education and awareness



Wurundjeri Narrap Team's Sean Hunter leads a 'walk and yarn' with Landcare facilitators through a Wurundjeri - owned property in Healesville, Victoria (Jackson Chatfield 2019)

Aims of the Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator Role



Increase participation of First Nations people in Landcare across Victoria



Support Traditional Owners' aspirations for Country



Build Aboriginal cultural heritage capacity within Landcare



Improve engagement between Landcare and the First Nations community



Establish the Landcare brand across First Nations communities



Examples of Types of Activities Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator has Led



Ngintait Elder, Uncle Norm, standing next to canoe tree during rabbit management workshop in the Mallee (Jackson Chatfield 2018)



On Country meetings with Traditional Owners and Landcare facilitators



Aboriginal cultural heritage events with Landcare communities



'Yarns on Landcare farms' between Traditional Owners, Landcare facilitators and landholders



Assist Landcare facilitators to identify and report Aboriginal cultural heritage



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide for Landcare and environmental volunteers



Aboriginal cultural awareness workshops with Landcare and schools

Self-determination

What is Self-determination?

Self-determination is all about choice.

Indigenous people around the world, have fought for the right to self-determination, including the right to make decisions on matters that affect their lives and communities. The right to self-determination is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Australia is a signatory (First Peoples – State Relations 2019).

That means Traditional Owners have the right to make choices that best reflect them on their journey to self-determination and self-governance.

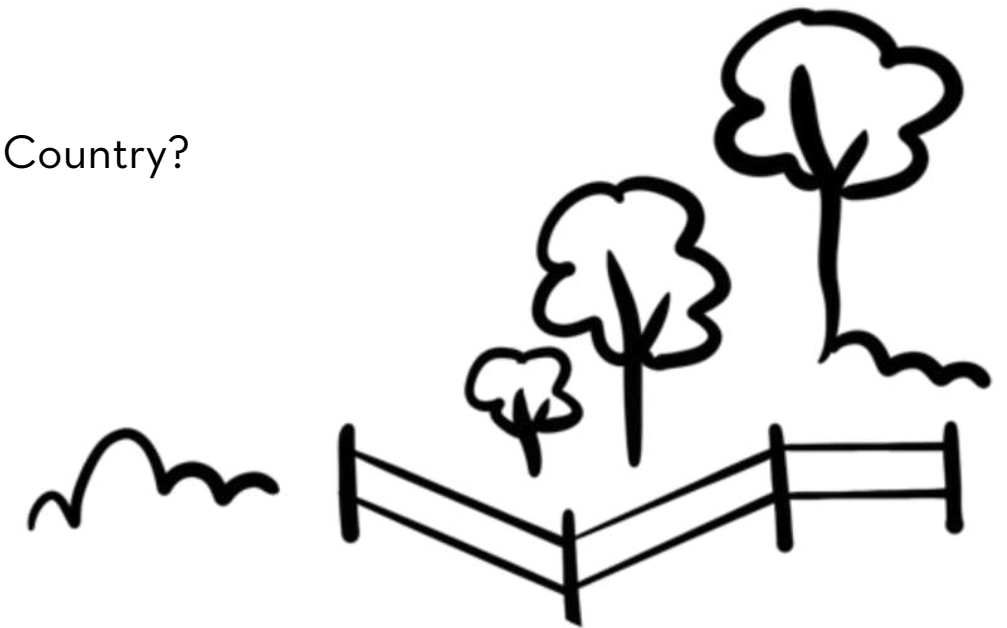
First Nations communities doing what they want to do, the way they want to do it, and having the resources to get it done.



Traditional Owners leading and teaching Aboriginal fire management on Wotjobaluk Country, Mt Grapples, Victoria (Jackson Chatfield 2021)

How the Landcare Community Can Support First Nations Involvement in Landcare?

- ➔ Use the resources available to support you - who are the engagement coordinators in your local area?
- ➔ Learn about the Country you are living and working on - who are the Traditional Owners and what is their history?
- ➔ Understand the cultural values of your work area - are there any cultural heritage sites nearby and how do I protect them?
- ➔ Enable self-determination - ask Traditional Owners and First Nations people what they want to do.
- ➔ Find the common ground - what are the areas of shared interest and what do both want to achieve for Country?
- ➔ Explore opportunities for Traditional Owner and First Nation involvement in your Landcare work.
- ➔ Drive action - be the one who makes the first step!



Opportunities

Connecting and partnering with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities can be a very rewarding experience for both First Nations people and Landcare groups/networks.



Read your local Traditional Owner's Country Plan to find the common ground.



Help protect and preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage in your Landcare area.



Support Traditional Owners to manage Country in the way they want to.



Provide opportunities for Traditional Owner and First Nations communities to access and connect with Country through involvement in Landcare and caring for Country activities.



Seek Traditional Owner input into project planning, from the start.



Keep Traditional Owners and First Nations community groups informed of Landcare activity.



Invite Traditional Owners and First Nations community members to join your Landcare group or network.



Mission to Enable Self-Determination in Landcare

What we are working to achieve:

- ✿ Establish community-based, local Aboriginal Landcare Officers.
- ✿ Recognise Traditional Owner aspirations for Country and support them to manage Country the way they want to.
- ✿ Strengthen Traditional Owner and First Nations communities connections with Landcare.
- ✿ Increase opportunities for Traditional Owner and First Nations communities to access and connect with Country through involvement in caring for Country activities.
- ✿ Support Traditional Owners and First Nations communities to work directly with Landcare groups on projects delivering engagement and caring for Country activities.
- ✿ Build skills and capacity of Traditional Owners and First Nations people to participate in caring for Country activities.
- ✿ Empower Traditional Owner and First Nations communities to connect with Country and enable opportunities for economic development.



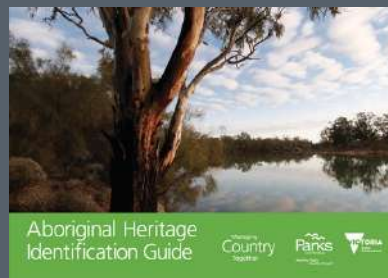
Gunitjmarra Elder, Auntie Eileen Alberts explains Aboriginal weaving techniques to Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff and local community members at Tyrendarra IPA, Victoria (Jackson Chatfield 2018)

Click the live
links for direct
access



Key Resources: Strategies and Guides

Parks Victoria's Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide for Landcare and Environmental Volunteers



Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy



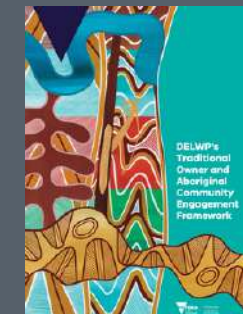
Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy



First Peoples - State Relations

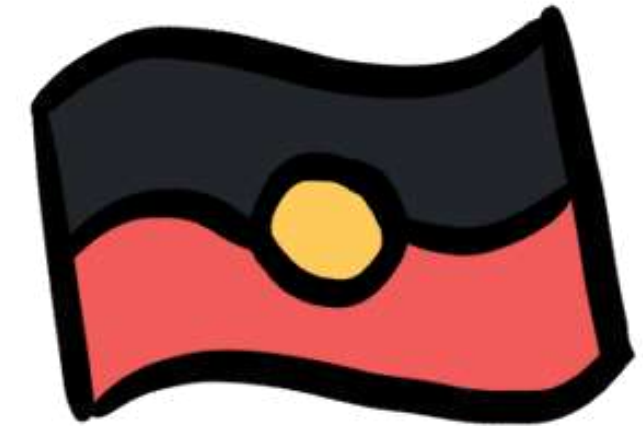


Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework



Traditional Owner Websites & Country Plans

If your local Traditional Owner group has their own Country Plan, this will give you great insight into the aspirations of the Traditional Owners and help you identify areas of shared interest and opportunities for collaboration.



[Taungurung](#)

[Djaara](#)

[Bunurong](#)

[Gunditjmirring](#)

[Gunaikurnai](#)

[Eastern Maar](#)

[Wadawurrung](#)

[Barengi Gaijin](#)

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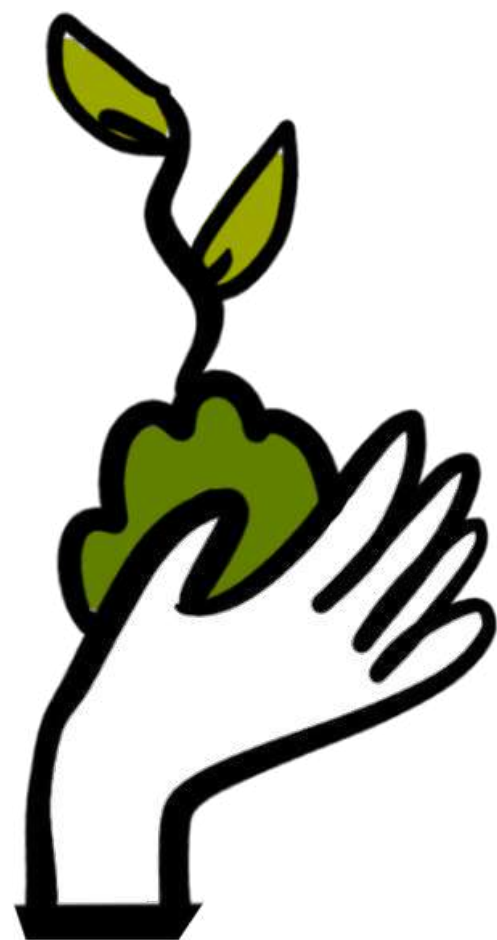
[First People Willewa
Mallee](#)

[Yorta Yorta](#)

[Wurundjeri](#)



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