

Treaty in 2019: What's happening

Aboriginal communities are working towards Treaty with the State of Victoria.

To do this, Aboriginal communities and the Victorian Government need to agree 'ground rules', including who can negotiate and what is up for negotiation.

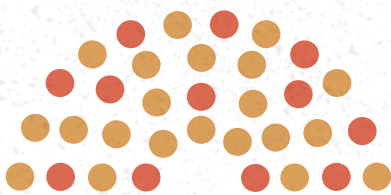
These 'ground rules' will be known as the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

The **First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria** will be the voice for Aboriginal communities during the next phase of the Treaty process.

The Assembly will be set up in 2019.

How will the Assembly work?

The Assembly will be initially made up of 33 seats. Only people who are Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria can stand to be a member of the Assembly.



21

members will be elected through a vote of Victorian Aboriginal communities.

12

seats will be allocated to the 12 formally recognised Traditional Owner groups.

As more groups reach recognition, the number of seats will adjust.

Assembly members will elect an Executive and a Chair or Co-Chairs to lead Assembly business.

The 33 members will work with the Victorian Government to:

- Set up an independent umpire to help the process go smoothly. (This will be called the **Treaty Authority**.)
- Agree on 'ground rules' for Treaty negotiations with the Victorian Government. Also known as the **Treaty Negotiation Framework**.
- Create the **Self Determination Fund** to support negotiating parties to be on a more equal footing with government.

The Assembly will hold elections every 3 years. Members can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.

KEY DATES

Enrolment closes
20 October

Candidate nominations close
4pm Friday 16 August

Voting
16 September – 20 October



Victorian Treaty
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The election

Victorian Aboriginal communities will vote in an election to determine who the Assembly members will be.

Community members can enrol between May and October. During the voting period, you can enrol and vote at the same time.

The election means **everyone in Victorian Aboriginal communities can be involved** – no-one in the community will be left behind.

Every vote will help the Assembly set up fair ground rules for Treaty negotiations.

Can I vote?

You can vote if you are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander aged 16 or above, and you've lived in Victoria for at least 3 of the past 5 years.

If you're a Traditional Owner of Country in Victoria, you can vote whether you live in Victoria or somewhere else.

Can I be elected?

To run as a candidate, you need to be a Traditional Owner of Country in Victoria and be aged 18 or above.

You'll need to be able to take part in Assembly business, including representing the views of community members. You'll also need to be eligible to be a director of a company.

How do I vote?

You can enrol and vote online at www.firstpeoplesvic.org

To vote, you will need to sign up onto the Assembly's Electoral Roll. This will be completely independent from government and will only be used by the Assembly.

Voting



 Number of seats

The 21 elected seats will come from 5 regions, including a gender balance.

This helps make sure **the Assembly reflects the views of Aboriginal communities right across Victoria**, rather than where the biggest populations are.

The voting regions are only to be used for the election. Each region includes the Country of more than one Traditional Owner group.

Your vote will be counted in the region where you live – this is the only way to make sure each region has a fair number of elected members, linked to the number of people who live there.

What can you do?

Be informed about the Treaty process.

Support your friends and family to be informed.

Get involved – if you know someone who you think would be a good Assembly member, ask them to consider nominating.

Stay in touch

The Commission is always keen to hear from the community. Your voices and passion are critical to make the treaties process as strong as can be.

You can get in contact via:
E: enquiries@victreatyadvancement.org.au
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www.victreatyadvancement.org.au

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