



**First Speech by Donna Wright
Inaugural Meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**

10 December 2019

Thank you, Aunty Eleanor. Ngatanwarr [Spelling to be confirmed]. Hello. I pay my respects to the Wurundjeri and the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nations whose land we are gathered on today. I also pay my respects to our ancestors, the frontier fighters, all Elders and particularly my mother, Eunice Wright; my father, Jimmy Wright; and my grandparents, Lyall Foster and Charles Foster.

Thank you. I pay my respects to all Elders and all First Nations people of this country and acknowledge our sovereignty has never been ceded. I am proud to belong to the oldest living culture on the planet. My name is Donna Wright, I am from the Kerup [Spelling to be confirmed] clan of the fighting Gunditjmarra people of Lake Condah, in the western districts of Victoria.

I acknowledge my fellow mob, but I am very proud to be part of the First Peoples' Assembly, and I am in awe and inspired by the words of the young people who have just spoken before me—very powerful, I thank you for that. I am honoured to be on the First Peoples' Assembly. I will act in the best interests of my community and all First Nations people. I will advocate for our Elders, our Stolen Generations, for a treaty that is based on truth-telling as sovereign people, a treaty that encapsulates our human rights based on empowerment, equity, cultural safety and a process that will lead to true self-determination and autonomy to make our own decisions over the lives for the future, for our youth, children and communities.

Thank you, wurruk. Goodbye.

