First Speech by Sean Fagan
Inaugural Meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

10 December 2019

Hi, everyone. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and thank them for having us here today and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I have not prepared a speech. This was sort of sprung on me a couple of weeks ago by my family, who I would like to acknowledge. I want to pay respects to my father and my grandmother, Havergal, who for a long time were not recognised as Traditional Owners of our own land, the Wadawurrung. Who have fought and fought and fought. I want to thank them as well.

I also want to thank all the people here who have worked tirelessly and paved the way for us to be where we are today. Thank you, Jill. Thank you for the working group. You have done a great job, and I am looking forward to continuing this journey with you all. I would like to acknowledge my partner up the top there, Alicia, and thank her for our beautiful child, Florence, and also acknowledge my daughter Lillie. I guess they are the reason why I am standing here now. I stepped away from my culture for the last few years to let my other family, my cousins, stand up and speak for our People. I am so proud of them. They are really working hard now and see the struggles that our family has been through through the years, and I want to thank them. I am here to represent Wadawurrung people for a corporation, but I want to let the people of Wadawurrung know that I am not representing a corporation—I am just the person there to speak for them.

It is really hard to follow all those beautiful speeches. I guess I want to say I am sick and tired of fighting and crying and sick and tired of seeing my family cry and all the struggle. It is time we can move forward, and it is time for change. And I think I would like to wish everyone in this Assembly well on this journey, and hopefully we can achieve a better future for our children and their children and their children. Thank you.