



TREATY AUTHORITY

An independent umpire to oversee and facilitate Treaty negotiations in Victoria

The Treaty Authority will be independent from the Assembly and the government.

The Assembly has secured agreement for the creation of a Treaty Authority that sits outside of existing State structures and does not answer to government.

The Assembly's agreement with government will see the Treaty Authority have its own authority and the freedom to operate in a way that reflects and embodies Victoria's First Peoples communities, culture and ways of being and doing.

The Treaty Authority will be made up of First Peoples and perform its role in a way that respects, observes and upholds Aboriginal Lore, Law and cultural authority.

This is recognised in the Treaty Authority agreement between the Assembly and the Victorian Government.

The Treaty Authority will have a rigorous and transparent selection process for Treaty Authority members. This includes a public call for nominations and an opportunity for Community to provide feedback.

The Treaty Authority members will have to meet selection criteria which reflect the need for appointments to be made in light of cultural authority and standing in Community.

The selection criteria will include:



Impartiality



Commitment to self-determination and empowerment



Good character, courage and integrity



Cultural knowledge, wisdom and humility



Technically competent and experienced

The Treaty Authority's role is to oversee and facilitate Treaty negotiations. It will make sure that the process for negotiating Treaties follows the ground rules in the Treaty Negotiation Framework.



Facilitate and oversee
Treaty negotiations

Administer the Treaty
Negotiation Framework

Assist parties to resolve disputes that
may arise in Treaty negotiations

Carry out research to support
and inform Treaty negotiations

It is important that the Treaty Authority is accountable to First Peoples and the wider Victorian community. The Treaty Authority must act in a way that is consistent with certain standards.

The Treaty Authority will:

- be guided by Aboriginal Lore, Law and Authority
- uphold human rights
- have rules to ensure good governance and decision making
- have rules to ensure conduct of Treaty Authority members
- report on operations and Treaty negotiation process

The Treaty Authority must conduct its role in accordance with certain principles. This includes:



SELF-DETERMINATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The Treaty Authority will respect Aboriginal Lore, Law and cultural authority.



INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

The Treaty Authority will operate in a way that is independent, impartial and free from interference from the Assembly, the State and parties to Treaty negotiations.



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Treaty Authority will be accountable to First Peoples living in Victoria and broader community, and will respect and listen to Elders' cultural and ethical advice and wisdom.



RELATIONSHIPS AND FACILITATING TREATY-MAKING

The Treaty Authority will work in a way that preserves, restores and builds just and respectful relationships between First Peoples and the Victorian Government.



INTEGRITY OF THE TREATY PROCESS FOR ALL

The Treaty Authority will respect Aboriginal Lore, Law and cultural authority, and consider the cultural context of all negotiating parties, to ensure a strong Treaty process for the entire Victorian community.