



Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future'

Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu is Wadi Wadi and Mutti Mutti language for 'Owning Our Future'.

The *Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025* is our roadmap to building a better future with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, through systemic and structural change that fully supports Aboriginal decision-making, evaluation and talent building to inform its policy and processes.

Wungerril weria tyalingi
gundal ja purinya kulingi

"Our people speaking
strong to make our country
and people healthy"

Our commitment to self-determination

To unlock our shared future, we need to come to terms with the dispossession of Traditional Owners that occurred with colonisation – and make right what can be made right. We must also recognise where the legacy of past policy continues to influence current practice.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is committed to reconciliation and a Treaty for Victoria's First Nations people.

Our Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy (the Strategy) is a chance for DELWP to help the State of Victoria undertake significant reform and make peace with its colonial history – to build a better future for all. It's been developed by listening to the priorities of First Nations people about how we approach this journey.

We know that Traditional Owners want DELWP to transfer power and resources to communities to support them to shape their futures based on their strengths and aspirations. This is our accountability.



PEOPLE

DELWP is culturally capable and safe; recognising, supporting, valuing and embracing Aboriginal decision-making.



SYSTEMS

DELWP has transformational systems that respect Aboriginal decision-making, leadership and self-governance.



ACCOUNTABILITY

DELWP is accountable and transparent in its efforts to transfer relevant decision-making powers and resources to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

VISION

DELWP will enable self-determination by creating an environment that understands and respects the rights and dignity of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.



COUNTRY

DELWP supports Traditional Owners' rights on Country so that their aspirations for land, water and culture are realised.

The Strategy focuses on the key domains of: *People, Systems, Country* and *Accountability*. We will rewire the systems and processes in our Department that create barriers to the self-determination of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

Scope of the Strategy

The Strategy is founded on cultural authority that sets the strategic direction and actions for DELWP to respond to the needs of Aboriginal self-determination.

It was developed to support the Victorian Government [Self-Determination Reform Framework](#) that guides public service action to enable self-determination in line with government's commitment within the [Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023](#).

The Strategy replaces DELWP's Aboriginal Inclusion Plan – (*Munganin Gadhaba 2016-2020*) and shifts the focus from working on outputs to meeting the aspirations of community through an outcomes-focused approach.



What is self-determination?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples describes self-determination as the ability for Indigenous people to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural equity, based on their own values and way of life. That means Traditional Owners have the right to make choices that best reflect them on their journey to self-determination and self-governance.

What should DELWP do to enable self-determination?

Self-determination is all about choice.

Traditional Owners have the right to make choices that best reflect them on their journey to self-determination and self-governance – and that right must be respected.

The role of DELWP is to identify and remove barriers that keep Traditional Owners in Victoria from exercising their right to self-determination. Aboriginal people know what is best for themselves, their families and communities.

How does the Strategy relate to Treaty?

The Strategy complements the work being done to advance Treaty in Victoria. The Strategy's outcomes and priorities are designed to support DELWP to be ready for the negotiation of Treaty or Treaties.

DELWP's view is that Treaty or Treaties will create the foundation for a new, positive relationship between the State and Aboriginal Victorians.

How does the Strategy relate to One-DELWP?

The Strategy formalises DELWP's commitment under the One-DELWP organisational pillar: Self Determination of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians will be recognised and supported. The Strategy also shows DELWP Groups how to embed self-determination in their work.

Traditional Owner Self-Determination Plans

DELWP will also work with Traditional Owners who wish to develop individually tailored Traditional Owner Self-Determination Plans. These plans will sit alongside the Strategy and outline the goals and visions of individual Traditional Owner groups. DELWP will be assessed by Traditional Owners on its performance under these plans.

Across Victoria, many Traditional Owner groups have published their Whole-of-Country plans which express their people's vision, aspirations, strategies and actions for Country. DELWP supports the use and delivery of these plans.

An outcomes-focused approach to enabling self-determination

Self-determination is the most proactive way to drive effective and sustainable outcomes for Aboriginal people. DELWP will adopt an outcomes-focused approach that values and supports Aboriginal leadership and expertise.

Self-determination will be embedded in DELWP's plans, processes, actions and outcomes in the management of land, water and the built environment.

The Strategy will be delivered through a yearly Implementation Action Plan that will show progress against each of the outcomes.

For more information, visit
[Aboriginal Self-Determination Strategy](#)