

Environmental Justice Australia – Treaty Pledge

30 April 2025

We, Environmental Justice Australia, acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands where we work, in Naarm, across Victoria and Australia. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and recognise that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land because sovereignty was never ceded.

With profound respect for the sovereignty, culture and rights of First Peoples, we're pleased to announce that we will walk with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria on the journey to Treaty. **Environmental Justice Australia pledges its full support for the First Peoples' Treaty process in Victoria.**

We acknowledge the role of the legal system in establishing, entrenching and continuing the oppression and injustice experienced by First Peoples. We also acknowledge that the law has been an avenue for resistance and a critical framework of action for First Peoples' justice.

When you listen to people, you get better outcomes. Decisions about First Peoples should be made by Aboriginal people, and Treaty gives First Peoples a pathway to change what isn't working, and to come up with and deliver practical solutions.

As an organisation dedicated to environmental justice, we must play our part in righting the wrongs of the past and creating a better future together. To help build support for the shared journey to Treaty, Environmental Justice Australia will:

- Add ourselves to a register to provide pro-bono legal support on environmental justice issues to Traditional Owner Groups during their Treaty negotiations
- Continue to provide training and capacity-building for EJA staff to increase their understanding of First Peoples' issues, Treaty negotiations, and cultural competency
- Offer support for First Peoples communities to develop skills and knowledge on environmental justice legal issues to help effective participation in the Treaty process
- Raise awareness about the importance of Treaty and the rights of First Peoples (particularly around environmental justice issues)
- Advocate for policy reforms and legislative changes that promote the recognition of First Peoples' rights and facilitate the implementation of Treaty commitments
- Continue to co-name/rename spaces in our office to honour First Peoples' names and languages and include support for Treaty in our Acknowledgements of Country

By making this pledge, we affirm our commitment to the self-determination of First Peoples in Victoria as they assert their rights, tell their truths, and chart a path towards, and healing through, Treaty-making.

Together, we will create a future where First Peoples' voices are heard, rights are respected, and justice is realised for generations to come. There can be no environmental justice without First Peoples' justice.