

Talking Treaty



Statewide representatives of native title groups

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Since my appointment in February 2017, I have been travelling around South Australia talking to Aboriginal people about their views on Treaty.

We are talking about an agreement between Aboriginal people and the SA government. An agreement could acknowledge past wrongs and build strong and respectful relationships for the future between government and Aboriginal communities. It could also deliver an improved quality of life to Aboriginal people.

So far I have found strong support from the Aboriginal people of South Australia about Treaty. Lots of people have also talked about what a Treaty means to them and how Treaty talks could be managed.

Once I have collected the views of as many people as I can, I will put them into a report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Hon Kym Maher MLC. The report will recommend a framework that could support next steps to Treaty.

I strongly encourage all Aboriginal people, organisations and representatives to have their say and help shape the future of Treaty in South Australia.



Dr Roger Thomas
Treaty Commissioner

May 2017

TREATY CONSULTATIONS



The Treaty Commissioner is seeking the views of all Aboriginal people of South Australia about Treaty.

This paper starts early thinking about how Treaty talks could work. It is not the start of a Treaty negotiation or legal advice about Treaty.

What is a Treaty?

A Treaty is an agreement between two or more groups. A Treaty or Treaties could be made between Aboriginal people and the South Australian Government.

A Treaty is basically a contract or deal, where groups sit down together to negotiate and agree on certain rights and responsibilities.

It is important to remember that as a state of Australia, the South Australian Government has limited powers and can only enter agreements in line with those powers.

Why a Treaty?

In some Commonwealth countries, Governments have entered Treaties with First Peoples either at the time of arrival or in modern times. Some see it as:

- Enabling reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of South Australia and providing recognition of Aboriginal people and/or Aboriginal nations;
- A way to re-set the relationship between Government and Aboriginal people of South Australia for future generations;
- A way to make amends for past wrongs and the impacts of colonisation.

Visit www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/treaty to find out more

Who makes a Treaty?

One single Treaty or multiple Treaties are possible.

A combination of one Treaty with all Aboriginal people of South Australia as well as individual Treaties with different groups of Aboriginal people is also possible.

Outside of Australia, some Treaties are single agreements signed by representatives of all First Peoples. Elsewhere, there are multiple Treaties with individual First Peoples groups.

How could a Treaty be made?

It is important to think about how everyone can work together to get the best outcome for all people under any Treaty model.

A framework could make sure discussions are supported, fair, and give all groups confidence that the negotiations will continue until a Treaty or Treaties are reached.

When will a Treaty be made?

The South Australian Government has committed to support the Treaty process over five years.

Building the capability of new and existing Aboriginal groups over this time will be required to ensure fair representation of members of the Aboriginal community and ensure meaningful engagement.



Kaurna community members

Port Lincoln community members with
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation,
the Hon Kyam Maher MLC and Treaty Commissioner



GET INVOLVED



1. Arrange a consultation

The Treaty Commissioner will visit many sites across South Australia.
Contact the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to arrange a meeting.



2. Provide written feedback by Friday 7 July 2017

Feedback forms are available in hardcopy, online and at consultations.

Detailed written submissions are also welcome.

Your feedback will be treated with strict confidence and will be the key input to the Treaty Commissioner's advice to the Minister on a Treaty framework.



3. Email and online

A webpage and email provide the opportunity to ask questions and send feedback including written submissions.

**To see when the Treaty Commissioner is in your area, arrange a meeting,
or to request more information, contact the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.**

@ **Email:** treaty@sa.gov.au

🌐 **Web:** www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/treaty

✉ **Mail:** Treaty Commissioner, GPO Box 320, Adelaide SA 5001

☎ **Freecall:** **1800 532 000**

f **Facebook:** @TreatyCommissioner

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Government
of South Australia