

# What is the Aboriginal Lands Act 1970?

The Aboriginal Lands Act 1970 (Act) gave ownership of the former missions at Framlingham and Lake Tyers to its residents who were present at the Framlingham and Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trusts on certain dates provided for in law.

The Trust land is now owned as alienable freehold title.

## Who owns and manages the land?

The Trusts own the Trust land. Shareholders own 'shares', which means that they are members of the Trust and have the right to:

- Have a say in what happens on the Trust land by voting on issues and electing the Trust's Committee of Management
- Attend meetings of the Trust
- Receive money paid to shareholders, from profits gained from economic activity on the Trust.

Your shares are like personal property.

You can give shares to your immediate family, children, grandchildren, aunts/uncles and cousins, another shareholder, the Trust, or the Victorian Government.



## Who is the Committee of Management?

The Management Committee is responsible for making most of the decisions about the Trust. The Management Committee is made up of seven people elected by the Trust's shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Management Committee do not have to be shareholders.

## Who lives and works on the land?

The current residents on the Trusts are not all shareholders. Likewise, not all shareholders still live on the Trust land. The Trusts receive funding from Department of Premier and Cabinet to look after Trust land and facilities, including water, roads, and community buildings.

## What does the Act mean for residents?

The Act does not say much about the residents. The Trusts' main service is looking after housing for residents. Residents can attend meetings of the Trust. Resident shareholders can also vote in Trust meetings.

## Who regulates the Act?

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, through Aboriginal Victoria, is responsible for overseeing the administration of the Act.



## Glossary

### **Alienable freehold title**

Alienable freehold title means that Trust land can be sold or given away. This can be done as long as all shareholders attending a general meeting agree.

Trust land can also be mortgaged and leased for up to 21 years, if enough shareholders agree.

A mortgage can be used to raise money for investment and business development.

### **Non-resident shareholders**

Non-resident shareholders own shares but do not live at the Trusts.

### **Residents**

Residents are the people that live at the Trusts.

### **Resident shareholders**

Resident shareholders live on the land and own Trust shares.

### **Shareholders**

The shareholders of the Trusts are its members.

The original shareholders were those who were residents of the Trust land on a certain date specified in the Act.

At Framlingham, the original shareholders were residents on the Trust on 1 January 1968. At Lake Tyers, the original shareholders were those who were residents on the Trust between 1 January 1968 and 1 October 1970 with the approval of the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Council.

