

3. What is a Natural Resource Agreement?

Information about the Taungurung *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* agreement

The Taungurung have managed natural resources within their Country over thousands of years. They have ongoing rights and cultural obligations to continue to participate in the management of those resources.

A Natural Resource Agreement provides a framework for how Traditional Owners can carry out agreed activities, including to take, use and manage natural resources, consistent with 'sustainability principles'.

What does the Natural Resource Agreement provide for the Taungurung?

The agreement provides for Taungurung people to access public land within the agreement area to hunt, fish, camp, and gather natural resources. This includes accessing and using vegetation or stone for commercial purposes, subject to some limitations.

Taungurung people will not have to pay for or hold a licence or permit, but will be required to demonstrate that they are a member of the Taungurung Traditional Owner group to access and carry out the agreed activities. The agreement does not affect the access of existing users, such as recreational fishers and hunters.

How will the Taungurung participate in the management of natural resources?

The State of Victoria (state) and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation (TLaWCAC) will work together to develop strategies for Taungurung's participation in the design and monitoring of natural resource management initiatives in the agreement area.

The Natural Resource Agreement gives particular recognition to the Taungurung's special association with the Goulburn River, and includes provisions for the state to support the Taungurung to help manage the river's oversight and protection.

A Procurement Strategy will also support TLaWCAC to access procurement opportunities and achieve employment outcomes in natural resources management within the agreement area.

Traditional Owner Land Natural Resource Agreement

The Taungurung settlement package includes a Traditional Owner Land Natural Resource Agreement. This agreement extends the operation of the Natural Resource Agreement to freehold land that is owned by TLaWCAC, or by a Taungurung person.