

NOTICE EASTERN MAAR PEOPLES (VID21/2019) NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING



3 December 2022, Lighthouse Theatre Warrnambool, 185 Timor Street, Warrnambool

Background

The Eastern Maar Peoples have made a claimant application to the Federal Court of Australia seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) ('NTA'). The claim is called *Ivan Couzens & Ors on behalf of the Eastern Maar Peoples (VID21/2019)* ('Native Title Claim'). This is an authorisation meeting to consider authorising a determination of native title over the uncontested portions of the native title claim area.

The native title claim area is depicted in the below map. The uncontested portions are those within the boundary shown that are not shaded and/or marked either 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' or 'E'.

A determination of native title is a decision of the Federal Court. The Court determines (1) who holds native title, (2) what the native title rights are, (3) the area to which the native title rights apply after any determination is made, and (4) which corporation will represent the native title holders. If the meeting on Saturday 3 December 2022 authorises the proposed determination of native title, the determination will then be sought in the Federal Court. The Court has listed a hearing for a potential consent determination on country on a date to be set in March 2023.

THIS NOTICE INVITES all members of the native title claim group as described below to attend the native title Authorisation Meeting at the date time and location below.

The native title claim group is the Eastern Maar peoples, being those descendants, including by adoption, of the following persons:

1. King of Port Fairy and Eliza
2. Old Jack (father of John Dawson)
3. Charlie and Alice (parents of Albert Austin)
4. Samuel Robinson
5. Mary Caramut
6. Lizzie (mother of Frank Clarke)
7. Robert and Lucy (parents of Alice Dixon)
8. Barney Minimalk
9. Nellie Whiturboin
10. Louisa (mother of Williams Rawlings)
11. Richard Sharp

Who:

(i) either identify as being from the eastern domain of the Maar speaking people and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar people; or

(ii) otherwise identify as Maar, Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung, Peek Whurrung, Keeray Wooroong (Kirrae Whurrung), Kuurn Kopan Noot, Yarro Waetch (Tooram Tribe), Djargurd Wurrung, Gulidjan and/or Gadubanud and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar people.

Map of Native Title Claim area



AUTHORISATION MEETING

WHEN: Saturday 3 December 2022

WHERE: Lighthouse Theatre Warrnambool, 185 Timor Street, Warrnambool VIC

TIME: 9:30am – 12pm

The purposes of the Authorisation Meeting are to:

1. **CONFIRM** the Eastern Maar native title group decision making process for Full Group Meetings/Authorisation Meetings of the Native Title Claim group.
2. **CONSIDER** legal advice regarding the matters for authorisation by the native title claim group.
3. Consider **AUTHORISING** the making of a determination of native title in relation to the uncontested portions of the Native Title Claim area, in accordance with section 87A of the NTA;
4. Subject to 3, consider **AUTHORISING** the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to be nominated as either the:
 - a. agent prescribed body corporate of the common law holders' (Eastern Maar Peoples) native title rights and interests, or;

- b. prescribed body corporate holding the native title rights and interests in trust for the common law holders (Eastern Maar Peoples), in accordance with sections 56 or 57 of the NTA;

The purposes of the meeting are also for the native title claim group to:

5. **CONSIDER** options to reach agreement with certain Indigenous respondent parties over contested areas in the Native Title Claim area.
6. **PASS** any necessary Resolutions to give effect to decisions made in relation to 5, above.

IMPORTANT

**There is a preference that people attend the Authorisation Meeting *in person*.
Access via videoconference will be provided to those that cannot attend on the day.
To attend online please register your details with Community Liaison Officer Marcus Paterson on 0434 632 875 or marcus.paterson@fnlrs.com.au by close of business 30 November 2022**

Please contact **Community Liaison Officer Marcus Paterson** on **0434 632 875** or marcus.paterson@fnlrs.com.au to **confirm your current contact details by COB 30 November 2022**.
Materials and videoconferencing links will be sent ahead of the sessions by Marcus.

For travel and accommodation assistance, where required for you to attend this meeting, please contact Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Administration Officer Katie Clark on **0427 271 937** or admin@easternmaar.com.au by **COB 30 November 2022**

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Three information sessions for claim group members will be held prior to the Authorisation Meeting to assist the native title claim group to prepare for, and make informed decisions at, the Authorisation Meeting, as follows:

Information Session 1

When: Monday 21 November 2022
Where: VACCHO, 17 – 23 Sackville Street, Collingwood (and online via Microsoft Teams).
Time: 5:30 – 6:30pm, light dinner provided at 6:30pm.

Information Session 3

When: Wednesday 23 November 2022
Where: Kirrae Health Service, 1 Kirrae Ave, Purnim (and online via Microsoft Teams).
Time: 5:30 – 6:30pm, light dinner provided at 6:30pm.

Information Session 2

When: Tuesday 22 November 2022
Where: Lighthouse Theatre, 185 Timur St, Warrnambool (and online via Microsoft Teams).
Time: 5:30 – 6:30pm, light dinner provided at 6:30pm.

Information Session 4

When: Thursday 24 November 2022
Where: Aboriginal Gathering Place, 4 Miller Street, Colac (and online via Microsoft Teams).
Time: 5:30 – 6:30pm, light dinner provided at 6:30pm.

To attend any of the information sessions online please register your details with Community Liaison Officer Marcus Paterson on 0434 632 875 or marcus.paterson@fnlrs.com.au by close of business, Thursday 17 November 2022