

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



9:30am Friday 8 September 2023, 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 *Janice Austin & Ors on behalf of the Eastern Maar Peoples (VID21/2019)* ('Native Title Claim'). On 28 March 2023 the Federal Court of Australia recognised the Eastern Maar peoples native title over a large part of the Native Title Claim area. This area is outlined in purple in the below map.

This is an authorisation meeting to consider authorising:

- A determination of native title over the areas outlined in blue and labelled 'Area 1', 'Area 2' and 'Area 3' in the below map;
- The nomination of the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation ('the Corporation') to represent the native title holders for these areas;
- The Corporation to make native title decisions in relation to land and waters which fall within the Eastern Maar Peoples native title areas.

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 Friday 8 September 2023 authorises the proposed determination of native title, the determination will then be sought in the Federal Court.

The Corporation has called a meeting for the same, date, time and location to consider the approval of an agreement with Beach Energy to permit gas production from the Enterprise Project. This item will be discussed at the same meeting and further information about this item is the subject of a separate notice.

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.

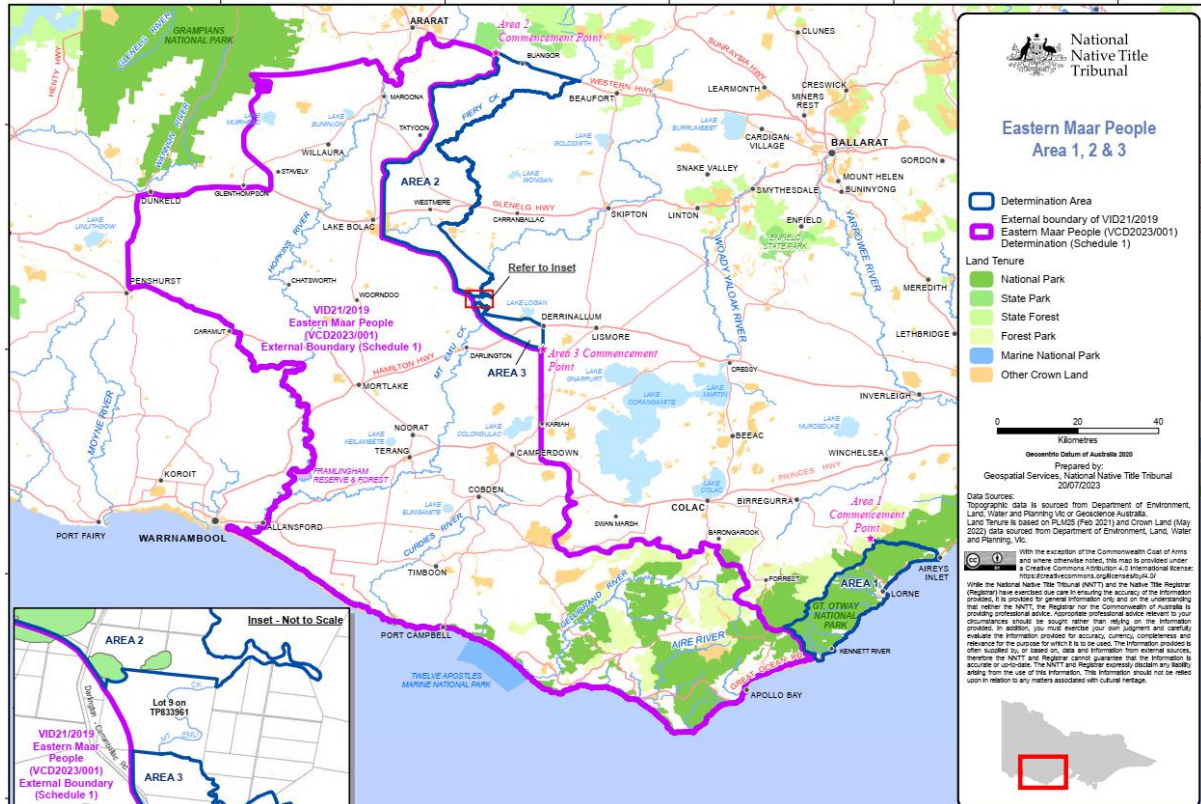
The native title claim group is the Eastern Maar peoples, being those descendants, including by adoption, of the following persons:

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: Friday 8 September 2023

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

TIME: 9.30am

The purposes of the Authorisation Meeting are to:

1. **CONSIDER** legal advice regarding the matters for authorisation by the native title claim group.
2. Consider **AUTHORISING** the making of a determination of native title in relation to the areas that are the subject of this notice, in accordance with section 87A of the NTA;
3. Subject to 2, 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;

4. Consider **AUTHORISING** the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation) to make native title decisions about land and waters which fall within any and all current and future Eastern Maar Traditional Owner Group's Native Title Determination areas and in relation to any other area of Eastern Maar Country, by:
 - a. Consulting with each family group in accordance with the process set-out in the Corporation's Rule Book; or
 - b. For other native title decisions, including arbitration by the National Native Title Tribunal, by giving standing authorisation to the Corporation to make these decisions without further consultation with Eastern Maar native title holders.

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 Senior Community Liaison Officer Charmaine Singleton on 0407 532 887 or charmaine.singleton@fnlrs.com.au by close of business 5 September 2023

Please contact **Charmaine Singleton** on 0407 532 887 or charmaine.singleton@fnlrs.com.au to confirm your current contact details by **COB 5 September 2023**. Materials and videoconferencing links will be sent ahead of the sessions by Charmaine.

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 5 September 2023**