

## **Domain 6: Culture & Country**

*Goal 18 : Aboriginal land, water and cultural rights are realised*

**Objective 18.1 increase the recognition and enjoyment of Aboriginal land, water and cultural heritage rights**

- [Measure 18.1.1](#) Area of Crown land with native title determinations and/or Recognition and Settlement Agreements
- [Measure 18.1.2](#) Work of the State in advancing the treaty process
- [Measure 18.1.3](#) Number of Registered Aboriginal Parties that have submitted a notice of intention to enter into an Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreement
- [Measure 18.1.4](#) Number of Whole of Country Plans published
- [Measure 18.1.5](#) Number of Joint Management Plans and area of land covered
- [Measure 18.1.6](#) Number of cultural burns conducted
- [Measure 18.1.7](#) Number of formal partnership agreements for planning and management between Aboriginal communities and key water and catchment agencies

*Goal 19 : Aboriginal culture and language are supported and celebrated*

**Objective 19.1 Support the preservation, promotion and practice of culture and languages**

- [Measure 19.1.1](#) Participation in community events which celebrate Aboriginal culture
- [Measure 19.1.2](#) Investment in Aboriginal language and culture revitalisation programs

*Goal 20: Racism is eliminated*

**Objective 20.1: Address and eliminate racism**

- [Measure 20.1.1](#) Proportion of Aboriginal people who report having experienced racism in the previous 12 months
- [Measure 20.1.2](#) Prevalence of racist attitudes against Aboriginal Victorians held by the Victorian community

**Table 18.1.1. Area of Crown land with native title determinations and/or Recognition and Settlement Agreements**

Year	Land area over which native title exists (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>(a)</sup>	Land area over which Traditional Owner Settlement Act agreement has been reached (km <sup>2</sup> ) - based on ILUA registration date <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>
2008–09	1,707	0
2009–10	1,707	0
2010–11	14,845	22,800
2011–12	14,891	22,800
2012–13	14,899	22,800
2013–14	14,899	40,170
2014–15	14,899	40,170
2015–16	14,899	40,170
2016–17	14,899	40,170
2017–18	14,899	40,170
2018–19	14,899	40,170
2019–20	14,899	40,170
2020–21	14,899	60,380
2021–22	14,899	60,380
2022–23	16,340	96,210
2023–24	16,629	96,210

Source: DPC internal data and National Native Title Tribunal data

Notes:

The Traditional Owner Settlement Act (TOS Act) was enacted in 2010.

When reporting for the 2020-21 year occurred, previous years' TOS Act figures were amended to correct a miscalculation from 2010-11.

(a) These figures comprise all land (Crown land and freehold land) within the external boundary of a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) area. Some of the Crown land within RSA areas agreed with the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk and the Gunaikurnai includes land where the Federal Court has also determined that native title exists. As at 2023-24, the total area of Crown land and waters covered by the four RSAs to date is 34,920 km<sup>2</sup>. These figures were recalculated when reporting for 2023-24, using data provided (at Table 11 of the Background Paper provided to Yoorrook Justice Commission) by the Department of Premier and Cabinet Heritage Information and Spatial Systems on 1 November 2023 (rounded to the closest 10 square kilometres). All land within the external boundaries of the four RSAs under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic) outlined above, amounts to approximately 40.5% of total land in Victoria (including Crown and freehold land, and land three nautical miles from Victoria's Coast).

(b) The ILUA that the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation entered into in 2005 remains in force. The land area within the boundaries of this ILUA is contiguous with the external boundaries of their RSA entered into in October 2022.

(c) These figures include the area within the external boundary of the Taungurung RSA which commenced in August 2020, despite the de-registration of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement in March 2021.

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**Measure 18.1.2. Work of the State in advancing the treaty process**

Descriptive measure, no data reported. See narrative on progress in report.

**Table 18.1.3. Number of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) that have submitted a notice of intention (NOI) to enter into an Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreement (ACHLMA)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>NOI Lodged</b>	<b>ACHLMAs Lodged</b>
2017	2	1
2018	1	0
2019	1	1
2020	0	1
2021	1	0
2022	2	0
2023	2	1
2024	0	0
2025	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: First Peoples - State Relations Group (Department of Premier and Cabinet)

Definition: Registered Aboriginal Parties that have submitted a notice of intention to enter into an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreement.

**Table 18.1.4. Number of Whole of Country Plans published**

	Country Plan as an overarching document <sup>(a)</sup>	Country Plan using the Whole-of-Country Plan methodology <sup>(b)</sup>	Partnership plans involving Traditional Owner Corporations and other organisations <sup>(c)</sup>	Other types of Country Plans <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
<b>2017-18<sup>(a)</sup></b>	5	1	1	1	<b>8</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Published</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

Source: Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC).

(a) data for 2017-18 contains all whole of country plans published before 2018

(b) These Whole of Country Plans include a long-term vision with goals and priorities, principles of engagement and measures of success. This type of plan stays at a high level so it is relevant for 10 to 30 years. It relies on sub-plans to include the operational level actions so the Country Plan itself stays relevant for longer.

(c) These Whole of Country Plans are developed using methodologies drawn from the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. This type of plan includes most of the content in an overarching Whole of Country Plan, but also includes an operational level of detail on NRM actions and therefore requires more frequent review

(d) This type of Plan plays the role of a Country Plan but with a shared vision between the partnership organisation and the TOC and incorporates partners goals.

(e) An example is Sea country planning, which aims to help Indigenous people negotiate with other marine managers and users to develop policies and institutional arrangements that are respectful of Indigenous peoples' rights, interests and responsibilities in sea country. These Plans have been developed under the Australia's Ocean Policy

Note: Funding sources for the development of Country Plans have been project based and varied, including federal government grants, state government grants and philanthropic grants.

**Table 18.1.5. Number of Joint Management Plans and area of land covered 2025**

Joint Management Plan Name	Area of land covered (approximately) hectares	Area of land covered (approximately) km <sup>2</sup>	Number of parks and reserved covered	Regional location	Date approved	Traditional Owner Group
<b>Gunaikurnai JMP</b>	47,070	470.7	10	Gippsland	Sep-18	Gunaikurnai
<b>Dja Dja Wurrung JMP</b>	47,000	470.0	6	Central Victoria	Oct-18	Dja Dja Wurrung
<b>Barmah National Park JMP</b>	28,505	285.1	1	North Central	Apr-20	Yorta Yorta

Source: Traditional Owner Agreement Unit - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Joint Management Plan Name	Local Government Area	Area of land covered (approximately) hectares	Area of land covered (approximately) km <sup>2</sup>	Number of parks and reserved within (partial or complete)	Traditional Owner Group
<b>Gunaikurnai JMP</b>	East Gippsland	28,900	289.0	7	Gunaikurnai
	Latrobe	370	3.7	1	Gunaikurnai
	Wellington	17,800	178.0	4	Gunaikurnai
<b>Dja Dja Wurrung JMP</b>	Central Goldfields	2,000	20.0	1	Dja Dja Wurrung
	Greater Bendigo	17,500	175.0	1	Dja Dja Wurrung
	Hepburn	3,100	31.0	1	Dja Dja Wurrung
	Loddon	11,900	119.0	2	Dja Dja Wurrung
	Northern Grampians	9,600	96.0	1	Dja Dja Wurrung
	Pyrenees	2,900	29.0	1	Dja Dja Wurrung
<b>Barmah National Park JMP</b>	Moira	28,505	285.1	1	Yorta Yorta

**Table 18.1.6a Number of cultural burns conducted**

Period in which the burn took place	Number of Burns
2018 <sup>(a)</sup>	6
2018–19	4
2019–20	10
2020–21	15
2021–22	13
2022–23	20
2023–24	29
2024–25	26

Source: Bushfire and Forest Services - Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action

Definition: A definition of a cultural burn (for reporting purposes) needs to be developed and agreed upon with Traditional Owners; DEECA will progress this piece of work.

(a)2018 data reflects six month period only. All other years reflect 12 months (1 July - 30 June).

**18.1.6b Number of cultural burns conducted by Locality and Traditional Owner Group**

General Locality	Traditional Owner Group	Number of burns in 2024-25
Wimmera	Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC)	4
	Aboriginal Corporation	
Metropolitan	Bunurong Land Council	4
	DJAARA (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans	
Murray Goldfields	Aboriginal Corporation)	3
	First Peoples Millewa Mallee Aboriginal	
Mallee	Corporation	1
	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal	
Gippsland	Corporation (GLaWAC)	2
	Taungurung Land and Waters Council	
Murrindindi	Aboriginal Corporation	1
	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners	
Midlands	Aboriginal Corporation	4
	Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural	
Metropolitan	Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	5
	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal	
Goulburn	Corporation	2
Total		26

Source: Bushfire and Forest Services - Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action

Definition: A definition of a cultural burn (for reporting purposes) needs to be developed and agreed upon with Traditional Owners; DEECA will progress this piece of work.

**Table 18.1.7.a Number of formal partnership agreements for planning and management between Aboriginal communities and key water & catchment agencies**

	Active (n)	Ongoing (n)	Active & ongoing (n)	Closed (n)	Total (n)
2018–19	27	38	65	1	66
2019–20	46	44	90	18	108
2020–21	96	50	146	45	191
2021–22	129	49	178	58	236
2022–23	78	85	163	94	257
2023–24	93	32	125	56	181
2024–25	88	89	177	44	221

Source: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, water corporation and catchment management authority and Victorian Environmental Water Holder internal records.

Definition: Includes MoUs, project funding and grant funding.

**Table 18.1.7.b Proportion of formal partnership agreements for planning and management between Aboriginal communities and key water & catchment agencies**

	Active (%)	Ongoing (%)	Active & ongoing (%)	Closed (%)	Total (%)
2018–19	40.9%	57.6%	98.5%	1.5%	100.0%
2019–20	42.6%	40.7%	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
2020–21	50.3%	26.2%	76.4%	23.6%	100.0%
2021–22	54.7%	20.8%	75.4%	24.6%	100.0%
2022–23	30.4%	33.1%	63.4%	36.6%	100.0%
2023–24	51.4%	17.7%	69.1%	30.9%	100.0%
2024–25	39.8%	40.3%	80.1%	19.9%	100.0%

Source: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, water corporation and catchment management authority and Victorian Environmental Water Holder internal records.

Definition: Includes MoUs, project funding and grant funding.

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New data is not available

**Table 19.1.1. Participation in community events which celebrate Aboriginal culture**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Aboriginal (n)</b>	<b>Aboriginal (per cent)</b>
<b>2008</b>	11,700	53.4%
<b>2014–15</b>	16,700	51.7%

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008 and 2014–15, Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 4714.0

Definition: Aboriginal Victorians who reported being Involved in selected cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months

Note: A case study related to this measure has been presented in the report.

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**Measure 19.1.2. Investment in Aboriginal language and culture revitalisation programs**

Descriptive measure, no data reported. See narrative on progress in report.

**20.1.1 Proportion of adults in Victoria who experienced racism in the last 12 months, by Aboriginal status**

Year	Aboriginal (%)	Aboriginal (RSE)	Non-Aboriginal (%)	Non-Aboriginal (RSE)	Gap (%)	Prevalence ratio
2017	18.5%	15.2%	6.6%	3.9%	12.0%	2.8
2018	14.3%	32.0%	7.6%	6.7%	6.7%	1.9
2019						
2020	16.5%	19.4%	5.3%	5.7%	11.2%	3.1
2021						
2022	20.6%	23.1%	7.8%	6.3%	12.8%	2.6
2023	17.5%	14.5%	7.2%	3.4%	10.3%	2.4
2024	18.2%	23.5%	7.4%	6.4%	10.8%	2.5

Data source: The Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS).

Data were age-standardised to the 2011 Victorian population.

RSE = relative standard error which is a measure of the reliability of an estimate..

RSE = standard error / point estimate \* 100 — interpretation below:

\* RSE between 25 and 50% — estimate should be interpreted with caution. \*\* RSE is 50% or more — estimate is unreliable hence not reported.

\*\* RSE is 50% or more — estimate is unreliable hence not reported.

Racism was defined as someone who reported experiencing discrimination or were treated unfairly in the last 12 months because of their skin colour, nationality, race or ethnic group, or because they identified as Aboriginal.

The questions were not asked in the 2019 survey and a survey was not conducted in 2021.

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**Table 20.1.2. Prevalence of racist attitudes in Australia - proportion of respondents who agree/strongly agree Australia is a racist country**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Aboriginal (per cent)</b>	<b>General community (per cent)</b>
<b>2014</b>	48%	35%
<b>2016</b>	57%	39%
<b>2018</b>	51%	38%
<b>2020</b>	60%	43%
<b>2022</b>	57%	42%
<b>2024</b>	56%	41%

Source: Australian Reconciliation Barometer

Notes: The general community sample, as well as the non-Indigenous and First Nations samples, are weighted to be representative in terms of Indigenous status, age group, gender and location (State and Territory populations), as per Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data.