

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land, winds, sky, and waters we now share.

Queensland is committed to working towards a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What is a treaty?

A treaty (or treaties) is a negotiated agreement between two or more parties. It is only signed when all parties agree.

Treaties between First Peoples and governments have been signed in many countries including New Zealand and Canada.

Treaties can be different and are shaped by the social, political, and historical background that exists between the groups negotiating the treaty.

Why does Queensland need a treaty?

A treaty or treaties will bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government, to recognise the true history of our state, and negotiate a new way of working and co-existing in partnership.

The Path to Treaty benefits all Queenslanders, by:

- Building a shared understanding of the past, so we can build a strong and equal future that is based on respect.
- Supporting all Queenslanders to participate in a process that promotes healing, justice, and reconciliation.

Treaty in Queensland

For Queensland, treaty is about the Queensland Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples coming together as equals to write our future together.

Research¹ suggests that Queensland's treaty (or treaties) be guided by three elements:

1. Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the land, winds, sky, and waters.
2. A respectfully negotiated agreement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and government.
3. A legally binding relationship that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and ensures substantive social justice outcomes.

On Queensland's Path to Treaty, the First Nations Treaty Institute, once established, will co-design a Treaty Making Framework that will guide treaty-making in Queensland so that negotiations are conducted equally, respectfully and in good faith.

¹Williams, H. H. (2018). The Noongar Settlement: Australia's First Treaty. *Sydney Law Review*, 40(1), 1-38.

What Queenslanders said they'd like in a treaty

Since Path to Treaty work began in 2019, Queenslanders have told us that their hope for a treaty is to:

- Improve relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-First Nations people by creating a shared understanding of our histories (informed by truth of the past and healing).
- Protect and improve the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Deal with long-standing questions about compensation for historical acts of trauma and dispossession associated with colonisation.

The Queensland Government is committed to listening to all Queenslanders, working together, and taking the time needed to get this right.

Find out more and get involved

This is a significant step and moment in time for all Queenslanders. We encourage all Queenslanders to join the Path to Treaty. Visit www.qld.gov.au/treaty for more information.

Other fact sheets available:

- Queensland's Path to Treaty
 - Why is truth-telling and healing important?
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