

YOORROOK'S LANGUAGE POLICY

The Yoorrook Justice Commission recognises that the revival and restoration of First Peoples' languages today is essential for many reasons. It helps to keep First Peoples connected to culture and grounds our identity in who we are as a community. It shows the resilience of First Peoples' knowledge and contributes to Yoorrook's goal of creating shared understanding of these issues for the broader public.

Yoorrook's work is also taking place during the International Decade for Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), which highlights the importance of the right to language as central to identity and culture for Indigenous Peoples everywhere. Yoorrook seeks opportunities to incorporate First Peoples' languages into its work wherever possible, in accordance with the appropriate cultural protocols and guidance from Traditional Owners of Countries across what is now known as the State of Victoria.

Yoorrook is the Wemba Wemba word for "truth". Yoorrook has identified a number of terms in Language to also remind all participants in its truth-telling that our way of working is unique among other formal inquiries.

The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) in collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and VACL's Advisory Language groups contributed to translation of the Language terms Yoorrook is using. Yoorrook extends its sincere thanks and respect to VACL and Traditional Owners who have identified and granted permission for their use in Yoorrook's work. Yoorrook welcomes all suggestions from Traditional Owners of additional ways in which your languages could contribute to its goals of truth, understanding and transformation.

LANGUAGE TERMS ADOPTED BY YOORROOK

Nuther-mooyoop -
Boonwurrung word
for 'truth'. This is
what is often referred
to as making
'a submission'.

Pil'kneango mirnk -
Djab Wurrung for
'open eyes'. This is
what is often referred
to as 'evidence'.

Balert keetyarra -
Wathaurong phrase
for 'strong talk'.
This is what is often
referred to as a
'witness statement'.

Wurrek tyerrang -
Wergaia word for
'speaking together'.
This is what
Yoorrook will convene
as public hearings.