

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From:** Anonymous 552**Dated:** 16 April 2024**Submission:**

Country is us and we are country we are the same thing. The Kureinji Nation people are not even recognised in Victoria as part of the collective Nations?

Why is this so, why are we not acknowledged in Victoria? We continue to be but are not heard, why is this so?

As river people our songlines and stories connect us to the river, not a border between NSW and Victoria so we continue to fall through the gaps, one state saying we are this and that and the other not even recognising us.

This is big problem for the Kureinji Nation. Understanding the concept that the Murray River was never a border for the First Nations people would be a great way to show a greater understanding of culture.

Our cultural safety is at risk and current practices needs to be expand on its understanding of contemporary cartography which is conflict with our songlines and storytelling.

How about some truth telling on our cross-border issues. Changes would need to include a cultural understanding of those mobs that live on the waterways and how this was a shared resource with all those who moved up and down stream, in times of flood, sharing resources for all without the confines of the states.

We need to recognise that these mobs are being torn apart trying to understand the laws that govern over the cultural aspects of living on a river which is the border. How in reality is anyone expected to tear themselves apart to try and understand what is happening is two states, living by both sets of rules and yet the Kureinji people are not even recognised in both those states. We have a cultural responsibility in both those states which we live and practise but this is tearing us apart culturally.

**END OF SUBMISSION**