



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **LAND JUSTICE GROUP WELCOMES BAILLIEU GOVERNMENT AND CALLS FOR ACTION**

The Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group (LJG) met at a State-wide Land Justice Summit in Melbourne today. Delegates from traditional owner groups throughout the State were unanimous in their call for the Baillieu Government to commit to land justice for the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in Victoria.

'We congratulate the Baillieu Government on its recent appointment,' said Graham Atkinson, LJG co-chair. 'We look forward to working constructively with the new government for the common goal of land justice.'

Working with the former government, the LJG contributed to the development of the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)* (**the Act**) and a new policy for addressing native title in Victoria that the Act supports. 'Work remains to be done in reforming Victoria's policy and we are eager to get down to business with the new government,' said Mr Atkinson.

The State-wide Land Justice Summit resolved to invite Premier Baillieu, the Attorney General, Mr Clark, the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Mr Smith, the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Ms Powell, and the Minister for Water, Mr Walsh to the next meeting of the LJG. The LJG would like to discuss the new government's policy on:

- the review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*;
- the native title settlement process in Victoria and the Act;
- the treatment of Aboriginal heritage and natural resources under the Act;
- good relations between local government and traditional owner groups;
- the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities as it relates to traditional owners and the effect of the constitutional recognition of the Aboriginal people of Victoria as the original custodians of the land.

Formed in 2005, the LJG is a body which provides a voice for each traditional owner group in Victoria. Membership is open to 1 representative, and a deputy, from each traditional owner group. Its aim is to lobby the Victorian government for improvements to policy, legislation and action to achieve greater land justice for all of the traditional owners in the State.

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