



NYAGAROOON PROJECT

CLAUSE 52.30-STATE PROJECT DECISION

The Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) is excited to announce that the Nyagarooon Project has been given state project status under Clause 52.30 (State projects) of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

BACKGROUND

In April 2023, the Victorian government formally transferred the Nyagarooon property to the Taungurung people. The Taungurung Community had been advocating for the Nyagarooon land transfer for many years given this place holds a deep and sad history for the Taungurung people. Nyagarooon is part of the former Mohican Run and most recently operated as the Acheron Youth Camp. The property had been identified as surplus crown land and was transferred to freehold title and its ownership now rests with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

The Nyagarooon land transfer provides an opportunity for Taungurung Elders and the Taungurung community to create a culturally safe and inclusive space that celebrates Taungurung culture and traditions.

TLaWC has organised several yarning circles - a culturally appropriate forum for Taungurung elders and community members to come together with TLaWC staff and content experts to share their perspectives, experiences, and objectives for the Nyagarooon property. These objectives include:

- 1. Healing and Caring for Biocultural expressions of Country:** Application of cultural knowledge and practices heals and strengthens all biocultural elements and entities of Country, including biophysical entities that form the western understanding of biodiversity
 - **Field Trials:** Nyagarooon is the ideal place to see and study some of Australia's remarkable flora and fauna in their natural habitat. Conduct research trials on the site to monitor and assess the impact of cultural practices on biodiversity and other elements of forest health and contributing valuable data to the broader scientific community.
 - **Innovation Hub:** Nyagarooon can serve as an innovation hub, encouraging experimentation with primary processing activities that transform logs from trees for a range of products.
 - **Transmission of Cultural Knowledge:** The application of cultural practices (i.e., fire, forest gardening) on the property will enable us to showcase these practices, contributing to heal and transmit cultural knowledge among the Taungurung people.
- 2. Wider Community Education and Outreach:**
 - **Knowledge Sharing:** Nyagarooon can host workshops, training sessions, and field days to connect with private landholders, students, and the local community about cultural-driven practices to care for country. The property may also showcase culturally identified species that were traditionally harvested for food, medicine or fibre.
 - **School Programs:** Collaborate with schools to offer educational programs, teaching children about the importance of applying cultural practices on country.
- 3. Emancipation:**
 - **Revenue Generation:** In parallel to becoming a focal point for community engagement, Nyagarooon can attract visitors and potentially generate a sustainable revenue through cultural tourism, native fauna and flora tours, or the sale of produce (i.e., locally-sourced



firewood).

- **Job Creation:** The development and maintenance of camping sites, guided tours, and educational programs can create on country job opportunities for the Taungurung people.
- **Culture Nurturing:** Nyagaroon can be a place for Taungurung people to showcase culture (i.e., tools, utensils) while fostering individual and community growth.

Planning

Upon transfer the property was zoned Farming Zone (FZ) and Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). TLaWC worked with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to have the small portion of land zoned PCRZ be re-zoned to FZ. Notification of approval of Amendment C75muri to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme was published in the Victorian Government Gazette, 25 January 2024.

Ministerial decision

On August 29, 2024, the Minister for Planning (The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP) advised that in accordance with Clause 52.30-2, the Nyagaroon Capital Works Project qualifies as a state project for the purpose of assessment under Clause 52.30. Among other things, the decision allows Taungurung to conduct the following works:

- Renovation of the existing caretakers dwelling in compliance with a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating.
- Repurposing of 1 x kitchen/dining room, 2 x large ablution blocks and 5 x accommodation cabins into camping/glamping platforms with connecting pathways and community gathering spaces.
- Re-location/demolition of 2 x large sheds.
- Construction of a multipurpose community space on the terrace (where sheds are removed from) overlooking the Acheron River and Cathedral Ranges. This building will be equipped with ablutions, kitchen facilities and classroom/meeting/breakout room facilities and a water supply that allows the CFA to access water when needed.
- Upgrades and renovations of an existing shed into workshops and gallery.
- Expansion of visitor car parking at the entry point adjacent to the caretaker's residence (parking space numbers TBC).
- Addition of service/ emergency vehicle parking area adjacent to community space and workshop shed.
- Upgrade of the main access track to the property to Category 5D ensuring it allows for all weather 2WD access.