

What is Treaty?



A treaty is a signed, negotiated agreement that accepts our history and opens the door to a shared future. Treaties signed between governments and First Nations peoples around the world provide recognition that First Nations peoples are the original owners of the land and endured injustices as a result of colonisation.

Treaties have been used throughout the world as an accepted means for acknowledging past injustices, resolving differences and creating a foundation for reconciliation.

Treaties are shaped through the process of negotiation and agreement and should reflect the unique social, political and historical context that exists between the parties who are negotiating the treaty.

Why does Queensland need a Treaty?

First Nations peoples have, for generations, been calling for a formal agreement (a treaty or treaties) to recognise First Nations peoples as the original occupiers of the land and waters.

A treaty or treaties, will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland community generally, to come together and negotiate a new way of being together and working, to deliver substantive outcomes for First Nations peoples.

Treaty provides an exciting opportunity to create a unified identity for all Queenslanders—one that recognises and protects the rights of First Nations peoples, cultures and way of life.

What Queenslanders have said about Treaty

Informed by statewide consultations in 2019, three major themes emerged that informs the work we are doing today to become treaty ready.

- ➔ **Inclusion:** Treaty is a conversation for all Queenslanders, both First Nations people and non-Indigenous people.
- ➔ **Reconciliation:** Truth telling and healing are at the heart of our journey towards treaty.
- ➔ **Treaty ready:** First Nations people and their communities are informed about the treaty process, and have an equal seat at the table to negotiate a treaty or treaties.

What could a Treaty involve?

