

## TRUTH, TREATY, VOICE

**Together we get to build the future of the country we all want to live in**

All of us need to understand the truth of Australia's history and its ongoing impact on First Nations people before we can all move forward as a healed country. A Treaty, or Treaties, between the Traditional Owners of the land – the oldest living cultures on earth – and the state that imposed its authority violently upon First Nations people without their consent, has never been negotiated.

In Australia, sovereignty from First Nations people was never ceded. The Greens will work with First Nations people to develop a Treaty and begin the process of truth-telling and healing.

Any Treaty or Treaties must be built on telling the truth of our painful colonial past. Together we need to explore, understand, and reckon with our past and the impact it continues to have on First Nations people and their cultures so we can build a future together.

### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Contribute \$250m for a national Truth and Justice Commission to investigate human rights abuses against First Nations people;**
- ▲ **Begin the national, grassroots led consultation process about Treaty**

## PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

## TRUTH AND JUSTICE

Our journey to Treaty involves truth-telling and healing first. This means exploring, understanding, and reckoning with our painful past and the impact it continues to have on First Nations people and their cultures.

The Greens will begin our journey towards Treaty by contributing \$250m to establish a national and independent Truth and Justice Commission.

The Truth and Justice Commission will be an independent body that investigates and reveals past wrongdoing to resolve ongoing and historical conflict and heal from it.

The Commission will have the powers of a Royal Commission and will investigate and reveal wrongdoing and human rights abuses

perpetrated against First Nations people since colonisation to the present day.

The Truth and Justice Commission will lay the foundations for agreement making between governments and First Nations people, as well as foster healing and national unity based on truth-telling.

The Commission's work will be underpinned by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and led by First Nations people.

## JOURNEY TOWARDS TREATY

First Nations people never surrendered their homelands and waters. Their Sovereignty and their authority to govern their own lives has never been extinguished.

The continued and ongoing legacy of colonisation has not yet fully recognised the

Sovereignty of First Nations peoples across the continent.

A Treaty, or Treaties, would be an opportunity for us to tell the story of who we want to be as a country. A Treaty will create a unified national identity that celebrates what unites us, protects the rights of First Nations people and their cultures while also acknowledging the ongoing and historical injustices of colonisation.

Our nation's journey towards Treaty or Treaties with individual clans and nations is the unfinished business we must complete together. Guided by the work of the Truth and Justice Commission, the next step in our journey towards a Treaty involves engaging and involving the community in developing the Treaty or Treaties.

The Greens will launch a nationwide consultation process to promote discussion, raise awareness, and promote engagement on Treaty or Treaties at a local, state and national level.

It is important that truth-telling about our history is coupled with a national debate and discussion about the needs for a Treaty or Treaties, and that this debate centres the experiences of First Nations people.

The Greens will make sure that the whole community can engage with and understand the need for a Treaty or Treaties and then develop them together. Similar to the national, consultative engagement process that was undertaken by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation beginning in 1991.

A Treaty or Treaties could then inform how First Nations people are represented to Parliament, or in Parliament, and how their views, experiences, and wishes could be considered in all policy and decision making.

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:**

[greens.org.au/platform](https://greens.org.au/platform)