

Trust for Nature is about caring for land, and all of its natural and cultural features.

Our work makes us modern custodians of the land we protect, as we work beside private landholders and passionate community conservationists to put in place perpetual protection for the invaluable habitat and species on private land in Victoria.

We are proud of what we have achieved in protecting over 113,885 hectares of private land for current and future Victorians. And we are equally proud to acknowledge, learn from and work beside the Traditional Custodians of this land. It is deeply satisfying to walk beside Aboriginal Victorians as we make our contribution to land justice and reconciliation. We enable self-determination by transferring iconic landscapes like the red dirt river country of Neds Corner in the North West of the state, or the glorious wetlands of Rhyll's Inlet on Phillip Island, from our temporary custodianship to the ownership of Australia's Traditional Owners.

As we continue our work, our appreciation of the ancient connection to and knowledge of the land that Aboriginal Victorians share with us has only deepened. This year, our nation will have an historic opportunity to think deeply about that connection, as we consider The Voice proposal and referendum.

The Voice is both an opportunity and a challenge for all Australians. We believe it is also a step forward that is long overdue. At Trust for Nature, we respect the right of all of our staff, partners and stakeholders, including landholders, to speak freely and respectfully about their views on The Voice. It is our hope that everyone will participate in the forthcoming referendum.

The Board and Executive of Trust for Nature strongly support a "yes" vote for The Voice. The time is finally here to listen to First Nations Australians, and to offer a voice direct to Parliament on matters that directly impact their communities and lives, as the next step in self-determination.

As we struggle with biodiversity and species loss, and the impacts of climate change, a clear path forward for the world's oldest continuous living culture can only help to strengthen our partnership in working together to heal and protect Country.



Corinne Proske, CEO



Gayle Austen, Chair

