



Ballerrt Mooroop

Glenroy

Our ask:

Invest in the development of the first Aboriginal Gathering Place in Northwest Metropolitan Melbourne, led by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

The Ballerrt Mooroop site, located on Hilton Street in Glenroy, holds significant cultural and historical value to the local First Peoples community. It is home to a spiritual healing tree and sacred ceremonial grounds, and was previously the site of Ballerrt Mooroop College, one of four Koorie Open Door Education (KODE) schools to operate in Victoria.

In December 2025, the Victorian Government announced that the Ballerrt Mooroop land title will be returned to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, recognising the Wurundjeri community's aspirations for self-determined community, economic and social outcomes.

Wurundjeri Elders, supported by community, have identified the establishment of a Wurundjeri-operated Aboriginal Gathering Place as the priority activation of the site to support cultural practice and knowledge transfer, create pathways for employment and training, strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes, and provide culturally safe space for Wurundjeri people and the broader First Peoples community across Merri-bek and Hume.

Wurundjeri Elders invite interest and engagement from the broader community and local, State and Federal Governments to support the development of Ballerrt Mooroop as a Wurundjeri-led Aboriginal Gathering Place. Investment in the site will progress Victoria's statewide Treaty commitments to transfer decision-making power and resources to Traditional Owners to make decisions about the matters that affect their lives.

As a community-controlled initiative, Ballerrt Mooroop will align its operations and programming with traditional knowledge sharing and healing Country. Profits will be reinvested into targeted, closed programming that support the social and emotional wellbeing of Wurundjeri and the local First Peoples community.

Ballerrt Mooroop will also embrace reconciliation, social cohesion and stronger people to-people relationships with the local non-Indigenous community, through expanded Wurundjeri-led education programs, events and activities that promote truth-telling and cultural understanding in Merri-bek and Hume.

In 2021 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Merri-bek and Hume was almost 3,000. From 2016 to 2021, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 30 per cent in these two municipalities, where the average annual population change over the period was 5.4 per cent. This catchment also includes 65 schools, 24 Early Learning Centres with bush kinder grants and the First Peoples North Metro Network.

Nearly half of the First Peoples community in Merri-bek and Hume are under the age of 25, and it is expected that in the coming decades, this community will grow not only numerically but also proportionately in the region. Existing Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in Merri-bek and Hume provide services for Elders and an ageing population, although with the large proportion of the First Peoples population under 25, there is a gap in delivery of services, supports and programs locally.

Wurundjeri's Gathering Place provides a strong opportunity for State and Federal Government to demonstrate their commitment to self-determination and reconciliation by enabling the development of Ballerrt Mooroop as a place that meets the needs of the Wurundjeri community, local First Peoples and non-Indigenous communities in the cities of Merri-bek and Hume.