2026 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION SCORECARD

ANTAR has provided a guide for the 2026 Victorian State Election Scorecard, on the First Nations policy platforms of the Australian Labor Party - Victoria Branch, the Australian Greens - Victoria, and the Liberal National Party (LNP) Coalition - Victoria, and One Nation Victoria.

ANTAR wrote to the political parties in October 2026 contesting the Victorian State Election seeking their policies and election commitments relating to:

1. Voice, Treaty & Truth
2. Incarceration & Justice
3. Caring for Country & Cultural Heritage
4. Closing the Gap

The Australian Greens, and the Victorian Liberal National Party (LNP) Coalition, as well as the Independent candidate for Kew, Sophie Torney and the Independent for Hawthorn, Shima Ibuki provided responses to our request for their positions on the issues outlined above and these responses can be read in full on ANTAR's website. We have assessed these responses and drawn on publicly available commitments from the parties to inform our analysis and determine our rating of their First Nations policy platforms. **The policies included in the Scorecard are intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive.**

ANTAR recommends close consideration of the First Nations policies of the parties and independents contesting the 2026 Victorian State Election. We believe that treaty, truth, justice, rights, and respect for First Nations peoples must be a top priorities for the next Victorian Government.

At the time of publishing The Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch, and One Nation - Victoria have not responded.

DON'T FORGET TO Vote!

VOICE, TREATY & TRUTH

Victoria made groundbreaking progress towards Voice, Treaty and Truth in 2025 by signing Australia's first Treaty with First Nations Peoples. If re-elected, what would your party do to:

- Support the implementation of Treaty as well as the recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission?
- Ensure that self-determining First Nations representative voices are broadly supported and strengthened?

INCARCERATION & JUSTICE

In 2024-25 there was a 26% increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners in Victoria, compared to a 11% increase of total prisoners from the previous year (ABS). Each party was asked, if elected/re-elected:

- How will your party expand justice reinvestment programs to address the overrepresentation crises of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in incarceration?
- How will your party reduce recidivism amongst young offenders whilst prioritising their safety and wellbeing to not inhibit their adult potential?

CARING FOR COUNTRY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Protecting invaluable First Nations cultural heritage and Country by:

- How will your party promote aspirations of caring for Country and the economic empowerment of Traditional Owners through energy sovereignty?
- How will your party protect First Nations Cultural Heritage through consultations with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities which are structured around the UN human rights principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)?

CLOSING THE GAP

Nearly two decades on from the establishment of the National CtG strategy, only 3 of the 17 targets are on track, while 4 are actively regressing. As recognised in the CtG Priority Reforms, First Nations people hold the solutions to address the needs of their communities. If elected/re-elected:

- How would your party work towards Priorities One and Two of the National Agreement Priority Reforms to support genuine power-sharing by government, decision-making partnerships, and ACCO initiatives?

Authorised by B. A. Cansdale, ANTAR, Gadigal Land, Sydney.

VOICE, TREATY & TRUTH

Victoria made groundbreaking progress towards Voice, Treaty and Truth in 2025 by signing Australia's first Treaty with First Nations Peoples. If re-elected, what would your party do to:

- Support the implementation of Treaty as well as the recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission?
- Ensure that self-determining First Nations representative voices are broadly supported and strengthened?

Labor	Liberal / Nationals	One Nation	The Greens
• Committed to continuing to work with Gellung Warl to implement treaty reforms in full • As of the last report, the Labor government had only implemented 15% of the Yoorrook Justice Commission's recommendations. Labor has been foundational to the establishment of Treaty and the Yoorrook Justice Commission in Victoria. However, the party has not made strong commitments to further progress in this area, and has not demonstrated a commitment to implementing the recommendations that come from truth-telling processes.	• Abolish Treaty infrastructure and replace it with a new government department with centralised control over First Nations policy • This department will grant far less decision-making power and recognition to First Nations peoples • The coalition has published minimal details on how the department's goals will be met. The plan to repeal Treaty directly contradicts the principle of self-determination. The proposed First Nations Victoria department would also likely reproduce harmful, paternalistic policymaking, granting all power in First Nations affairs to a single Minister.	• Has publicly announced plans to scrap Treaty entirely without proposing any alternative model to uplift First Nations communities. This is a deeply harmful policy. One Nation's failure to nominate any alternative policy for uplifting First Nations communities demonstrates a contempt for the principles of self-determination and equity for First Nations peoples.	• Adoption of all recommendations from the Yoorook truth-telling process • Fully resource Gellung Warl to strengthen Treaty implementation • Support the signing of additional treaties with traditional owner groups • Advocates for the principle of self-determination to be codified into law. The Greens have ambitious and comprehensive plans to protect and expand the implementation of Voice, Treaty and Truth in Victoria. They have made concrete funding and legislative reform commitments to expanding self-determination.
			

Damaging | Harmful / Regressive | Must improve | On the right track | Empowering

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Labor	Liberal/Nationals	One Nation	The Greens
• Sustained implementation of the 'Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2025-2027' and 'Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way - Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families 2018-2028' • Expand offences under 'adult crime, adult time' • Increasing police force and police/PSO powers (stop and search, weapon seizing) • Develop a new Violence Reduction Unit for schools. Although Labor has some prevention and ACCO policies, their justice platform prioritises carceral solutions. Labor youth justice policy will likely entrench at-risk children in the criminal legal system.	• Implement a new domestic violence disclosure scheme • Expanding offences under 'adult crime, adult time' • 100 million dollar safer communities plan: harsher bail sentencing, Increasing the police force and police/PSO powers (stop and search, weapon seizing), investing in community youth prevention and discipline programs 'Youthstart' and 'Restart'. LNP community safety plan prioritises punishment over prevention as well as expanding carceral institutional responses. This will harm First Nations' community wellbeing, especially amongst at-risk children.	• Reduce the age of criminal responsibility to 10 • Increase penalties for violent young offenders and harshen bail restrictions • Reinstate Intensive Corrections Orders • Invest in judicial and correctional infrastructure • Increasing police powers, protections and public visibility. One Nations' crime policy threatens First Nations communities and children. Their wholly punitive focus will perpetuate recidivism and racial profiling. These policies have not been budgeted.	• Sustained implementation of 'Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way - Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families 2018-2028' • Will raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 • $1b investment into community safety and crime prevention via ACCOs, focusing on public health, culturally appropriate justice mechanisms and youth justice. These policies prioritise First Nations self-determination and leadership through ACCO collaboration and a public health approach to crime prevention.
			

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CARING FOR COUNTRY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Native Title protects the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and offers opportunities for their economic empowerment, for example through the renewables industry. If elected/re-elected:

- How will your party promote aspirations of caring for Country and the economic empowerment of Traditional Owners through energy sovereignty?
- How will your party protect First Nations Cultural Heritage through consultations with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities which are structured around the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)?

Labor	Liberal Nationals	One Nation	The Greens
• Sustained implementation of the 'First Peoples Renewable Energy Strategic Plan 2026-2029' • Aims to reach 95% renewable energy in Victoria by 2035. • Has worked to enshrine FPIC and UNDRIP into legislation through the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*, and into government practice through guidelines such as in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan Guidelines. Labor supports First Nations economic empowerment and cultural heritage. However, they lack ambitious environmental policy regarding renewables and Traditional Owner sovereignty.	• Will conduct an independent review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic) on the impact of cultural heritage protections on fees and timelines • Conserving Victorian parks, aiming to reduce pests and landfill • Continue natural gas projects. The LNP has not prioritised First Nations consultation or cultural protections in favour of industry and developments. They are not committed to the renewables transition and the benefits it can bring to First Nations' communities.	• Limiting cultural heritage protections to fast track developments via the 'two out, one in' compliance policy • Will scrap net zero targets and disband the Western Renewable Energy Zone • Repealing state ban on nuclear energy. One Nation directly opposes First Nations agency and protections in matters of cultural heritage. The party rejects Native Title and the renewables transition.	• Sustained implementation of the 'First Peoples Renewable Energy Strategic Plan 2026-2029' • Enshrine UNDRIP and self-determination into Victorian law • Restructure DEECA around First Nations knowledge • Supports Traditional Owner Management of national and state parks • Create a $2b seed fund for nature protection • Committed to reach 100% renewable energy in Victoria by 2030. The Greens are strongly committed to UNDRIP, self-determination and protecting cultural heritage. Climate action is centred in their platform.
			

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CLOSING THE GAP (CtG)

Life outcomes including in areas of health, justice, housing, education and employment must be equitable for all. Nearly two decades on from the establishment of the National CtG strategy, only 3 of the 17 targets are on track, while 4 are actively regressing. As recognised in the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms, First Nations people hold the solutions to address the needs of their communities. If elected/re-elected:

- How would your party work towards Priorities One and Two of the National Agreement Priority Reforms to support genuine power-sharing by government, decision-making partnerships, and ACCO initiatives?

Labor	Liberal and Nationals	One Nation	The Greens
• Funding programs in place to strengthen the ACCO sector • Plans to expand access to free early education and dental clinics • $16m committed to build 30 homes for a First Nations rent-to-buy pilot program • 10% of the $860m Social Housing Growth Fund has been dedicated to First Nations housing access. • Established Nginma Ngainga Wara, a First Nations-led accountability body with oversight over the implementation of Closing the Gap commitments. Although these funding commitments are promising, they will not bring about the transformational structural change that First Nations communities have called for. Labor's punitive youth crime policies are also likely to *widen* the gap in life outcomes for at-risk children.	• $52m pledged over four Years to strengthen the Urgent Care Pathways ACCO program, renewing funds for 11 ACCOs • Plans to review the mental health system and implement recommendations from the Royal Commission, including some related to cultural and community care. • Plans to abolish treaty will also abolish Nginma Ngainga Wara, therefore reducing reporting on CtG progress. Small-scale policies that are unlikely to create significant change. Outside of these commitments, there is no mention of CtG in major LNP policy documents. Furthermore, the LNP's focus on harsh criminal legal policies and plans to repeal Treaty will likely have widespread negative outcomes for First Nations people.	• Plans to establish stronger health services in regional areas will likely benefit First Nations communities • General lack of policy detail on CtG, but in the past party leader Pauline Hanson has consistently voted against measures that would advance CtG, and has publicly stated that the initiatives are "complete rubbish". One Nation directly opposes First Nations agency and protections in matters of cultural heritage. The party rejects Native Title and the renewables transition.	• Resource First Nations networks and ACCOs to close the gap in 25 years • Support a permanent seat for VACCHO and other First Nations groups in the Thriving Kids initiative • $20m per annum pledged towards an Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Infrastructure Fund • Implement all recommendations from VACCHO's Transforming Care in Custody • Healthcare for First Nations people in prisons provided by ACCOS. Specific targets and transition models would help to substantiate these policies. However, these are promising, as they advance ambitious, transformational change across all CtG targets by strengthening self-determination.
			

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ABOUT ANTAR

ANTAR is a national advocacy organisation working for Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Nations Peoples. We do this primarily through campaigns, advocacy and public education.

ANTAR campaigns for the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to oversee national agreement-making and truth-telling processes, as well as for the self-determination of First Nations Peoples. We actively support state and territory-based voice, treaty and truth-telling.

ANTAR engages in national advocacy across various policy and social justice issues affecting First Nations communities, including cultural heritage protection; justice reinvestment, over-incarceration and raising the age of criminal responsibility; child safety, development and wellbeing; anti-racism campaigns, native title and land rights, and closing the life equality gap.

ANTAR is a foundational member of both the Close the Gap Campaign and Change the Record Campaign Steering Committee, and an organisational and executive committee member of Just Reinvest NSW. ANTAR has been working with First Nations communities, organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997. ANTAR is a non-government, not-for-profit, independently funded and community-based organisation.

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ANTAR is proud to acknowledge and pay our respects to First Nations Peoples as the traditional owners of the lands on which we work across the continent.