

External assessment 2024

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Stimulus book

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

The QCAA advises Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people that this stimulus book may contain the names, images or stories of people who have passed away.



Queensland  
Government

**QCAA**

Queensland Curriculum  
& Assessment Authority

## Source 1

### Excerpt from the Queensland Government's Path to Treaty Commitment, 2022

**Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment ceremony was held on 16 August 2022 at Queensland Parliament House.**

In this, the 163rd year of the State of Queensland, the Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders continue our shared commitment to a reframed relationship.

...

The Path to Treaty is a significant step forward in reframing the relationship with First Nations peoples — a process through which all Queenslanders can recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of the land, winds, sky and waters we now share.

This Path to Treaty is a journey, not for the timid, but for those who are courageous to confront our uncomfortable past, the curious who long to find out and live with the truth, and the optimists who dream of the possibilities of a future where we live comfortably with the past, free of blame and rancour<sup>1</sup> because we commit to not repeating those things that shame us.

This journey together will enrich the lives of all Queenslanders and provide for greater recognition, celebration and learning from First Nations peoples.

In Queensland we commit to be courageous, curious and optimistic as we hear the truth and collaborate in maturity to build the consensus necessary to establish treaties, to build a place where the world's oldest living culture of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples is celebrated as central to the identity of all Queenslanders.

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<sup>1</sup> resentment or hatred

## Source 2

### **Excerpt from a speech by Dr Jackie Huggins at Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment ceremonial event**

**Dr Huggins is a member of the Bidjara and Birri Gubba Juru peoples and was the co-chair of the Treaty Advancement Committee.**

[The Path to Treaty] is something many of us have been waiting for. And now it is here. Treaty can address the unfinished business that has plagued us for so long as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

...

We know the Path to Treaty will be a long one — one that we must walk together. It will not be easy sometimes. Truths will unravel, and we are yet to discover what awaits us. The journey, each step, each conversation, each truth we hear, will highlight the history of our state and present many opportunities for all to learn and to share.

Let us not forget the work of our ancestors, our Elders who have gone before us, who have been calling for treaty for many years, and justice for our people ... [The] Path to Treaty will be marked in history as a pivotal moment of solidarity, and another committed step towards reconciliation and nation building.

## Source 3

### **Excerpt from a joint statement from the Victoria State Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, 9 March 2021**

**The Yoorrook Justice Commission is First Nations-led and was established on 14 May 2021 as Australia's first truth-telling process.**

Today has been owed for 233 years.

233 years of violence, dispossession and deprivation. 233 years of deliberate silence. Today we commit to telling the truth.

We do so for the kids who never came home — and those who are still finding their way back.

For those who were told they were not allowed to speak their own language, [practise] their own culture, know their own identity.

For the families who lost loved ones in the massacres.

For those who were made to feel like they didn't belong to their own country. And for those who still feel this way.

Today we commit to telling their truth.

We do so in partnership — a shared commitment between the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the state's first and only [democratically elected] body for Aboriginal people.

...

Held independently from Government, and afforded the full power of a Royal Commission, [the Yoorrook Justice Commission] will mark the beginning of a conversation long overdue, and a commitment to change.

It will compel us to confront what's come before. To acknowledge that the pain in our past lives on in our present.

And to recognise that without truth, without justice, there can be no Treaty.

Because, 233 years on, Aboriginal Victorians continue to experience outcomes far worse than non-Aboriginal Victorians.

It's why the [Yoorrook] Justice Commission will investigate both historical and ongoing injustices committed against Aboriginal Victorians, across all areas of social, political, cultural and economic life.

With the establishment of the Commission, Victoria will be the first and only jurisdiction in our nation to institute a formal truth-telling forum.

We make this point, not out of pride, but with purpose:

As a state, as a nation, we must do better.

That means not only hearing Aboriginal voices — but actually listening to them. And taking meaningful action in order to achieve real and lasting change.

...

Because only by reconciling with our past can we reach for a fairer, more just future — for all Victorians.

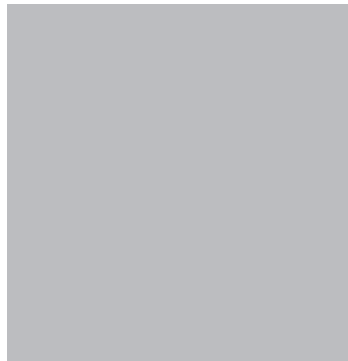
## Source 4

### The Yoorrook Justice Commission's logo

[The Yoorrook Justice Commission]'s logo was created by artist Dixon Patten ... a Gunnai, Gunditjmara and Yorta Yorta man who has bloodlines from Dhudhuroa/Jaithmathang, Djab Wurrung, Monaro, Wemba Wemba, Barapa Barapa, Wadi Wadi, Yuin and Wiradjuri.

The Yoorrook Justice Commission logo has been redacted for copyright reasons.

The logo and an explanation of its components can be accessed at <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/about-our-logo/>



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#### Circle



The circle at the top represents a gathering place, with the pattern pointing to all directions. [It depicts] all mobs from across the State coming together in support of Victoria's first ever formal truth-telling process.

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#### Three boomerangs



The three boomerangs in the centre form a 'Y' to represent the word Yoorrook, the Wemba Wemba/Wamba Wamba word for truth.

Each boomerang symbolises three eras of past, present and future. Honouring our ancestors/elders/our community now and our future generations.

The past is being acknowledged by the present to help shape the future.

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#### Circle and three boomerangs



The gathering place (circle) and boomerangs form a shape of a person, representing one's cultural rights as a First Nations sovereign person with their arms wide open, ready to embrace the truth and offer support.

The boomerangs face inward, representing reparation, reclamation and courage to go within to be ready to tell one's truth.

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#### Gum leaf and shield



The gum leaf on the left symbolises our connection to Country and represents Yoorrook being a welcoming space. The shield to the right embodies the ongoing resilience of First Nations peoples.

Together, the gum leaf and shield open like a book as our environments and cultures are our libraries. We learn through observation, reflection and deep listening which will be core to our work at Yoorrook.

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## Context

Sources 5, 6 and 7 are excerpts from the *Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026*. This framework was co-designed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES), in consultation with First Nations leaders in Queensland.

‘Gurra Gurra’ means ‘everything’ in the language of the Kooma people, whose Country is between Cunnamulla and St George in southern inland Queensland.

### Source 5

#### **The *Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026* vision statement, 2020**

To walk forward together, from two paths to one, in a partnership founded on respect, trust and First Nations peoples’ vision for Country and people.

The vision is practical and acknowledges the safe stewardship of Country by First Nations people for thousands of generations. It recognises the rights and responsibilities of First Nations peoples to continue to care for Country, and the deep knowledge that they hold.

This vision affirms our understanding and respect for First Nations culture and its basis in respect for Country and its people. It also affirms our acknowledgment of, and respect for, First Nations knowledge. This is not a matter of courtesy, but a genuine recognition that First Nations knowledge makes a significant contribution to the department’s strategic objectives.

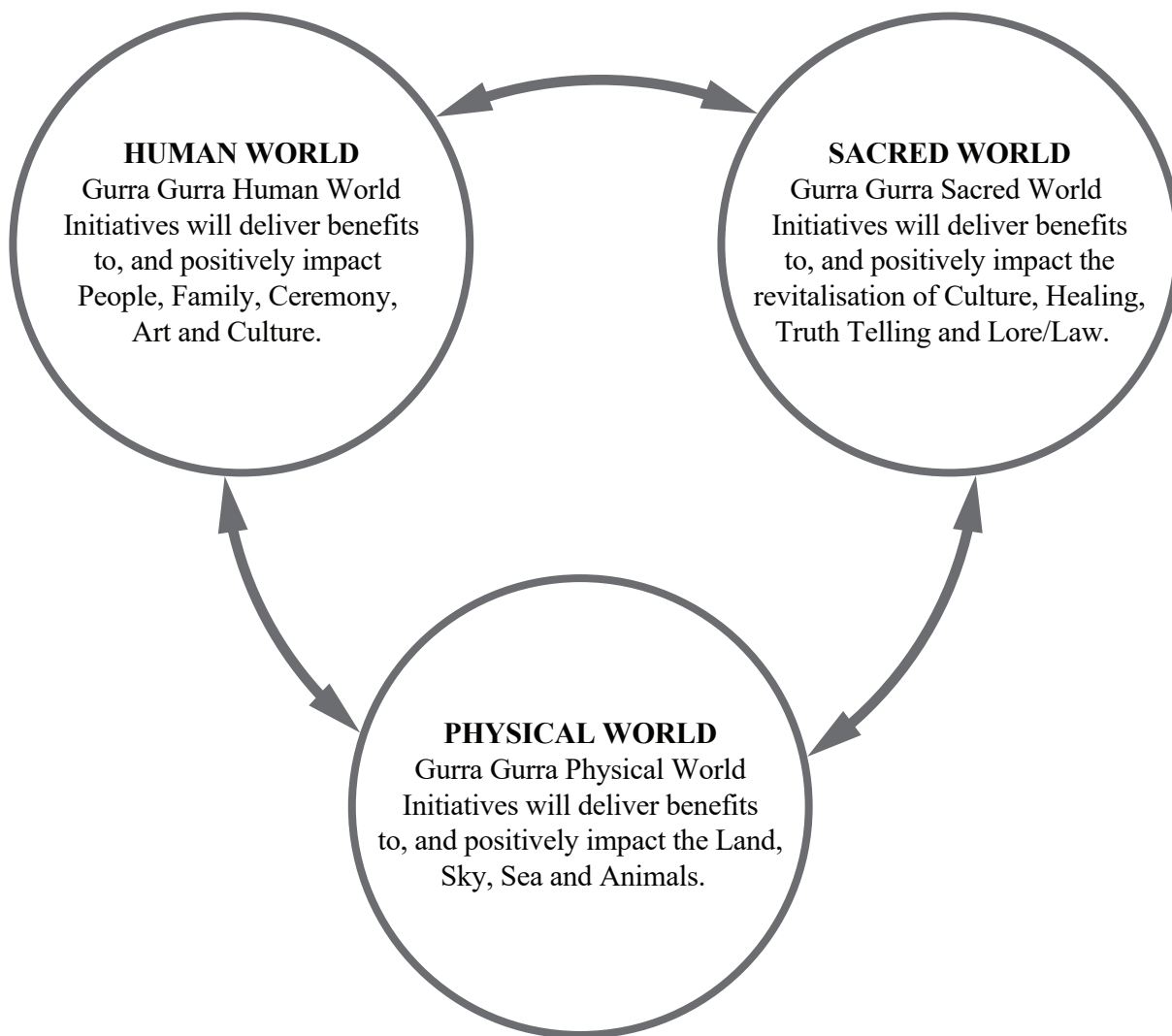
Our Executive Leadership Team has endorsed the Gurra Gurra Framework as the foundation for transformative change. Both [the Queensland Department of Environment and Science] and our First Nations partners seek a permanent relationship, so this is the first of many frameworks to guide us. This framework will be implemented over an achievable timeframe of six years.

## Source 6

The *Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026* terms of reference, 2020

### Program benefits aligned to First Nations terms of reference

These three key areas are interconnected and optimise the positive impact for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ‘cultural eco-system’ to balance our progress aligned to each of the three areas.



## Source 7

### How the Queensland Department of Environment and Science will enact the *Gurra Gurra Framework 2020-2026*

#### We will not:

- ✗ do to or do for First Nations peoples
- ✗ do for the department
- ✗ be transactional
- ✗ be performative<sup>2</sup> or exploitative
- ✗ be reactive, disconnected or potentially compensable
- ✗ impose on traditional cultures
- ✗ accept cultural appropriation
  
- ✗ force engagement provisions on First Nations peoples
  
- ✗ impose blanket solutions on communities, just because they worked elsewhere
  
- ✗ allow history to repeat itself in the mistreatment of First Nations peoples
- ✗ be symbolic in our actions.

#### We will:

- ✓ work with First Nations peoples
- ✓ do with the department
- ✓ be relational
- ✓ be culturally connected and agile
- ✓ be strategic, engaging and well planned
- ✓ negotiate with traditional cultures
- ✓ empower cultural leadership and resurgence
  
- ✓ listen and learn about First Nations governances and mutually agree engagement approaches
  
- ✓ take place-based approaches and learn how each community has different cultural protocols and solutions
  
- ✓ empower First Nations peoples as a progressive department
- ✓ create real structural change.

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<sup>2</sup> made or done for show, to improve image and/or make a positive impression

## Source 8

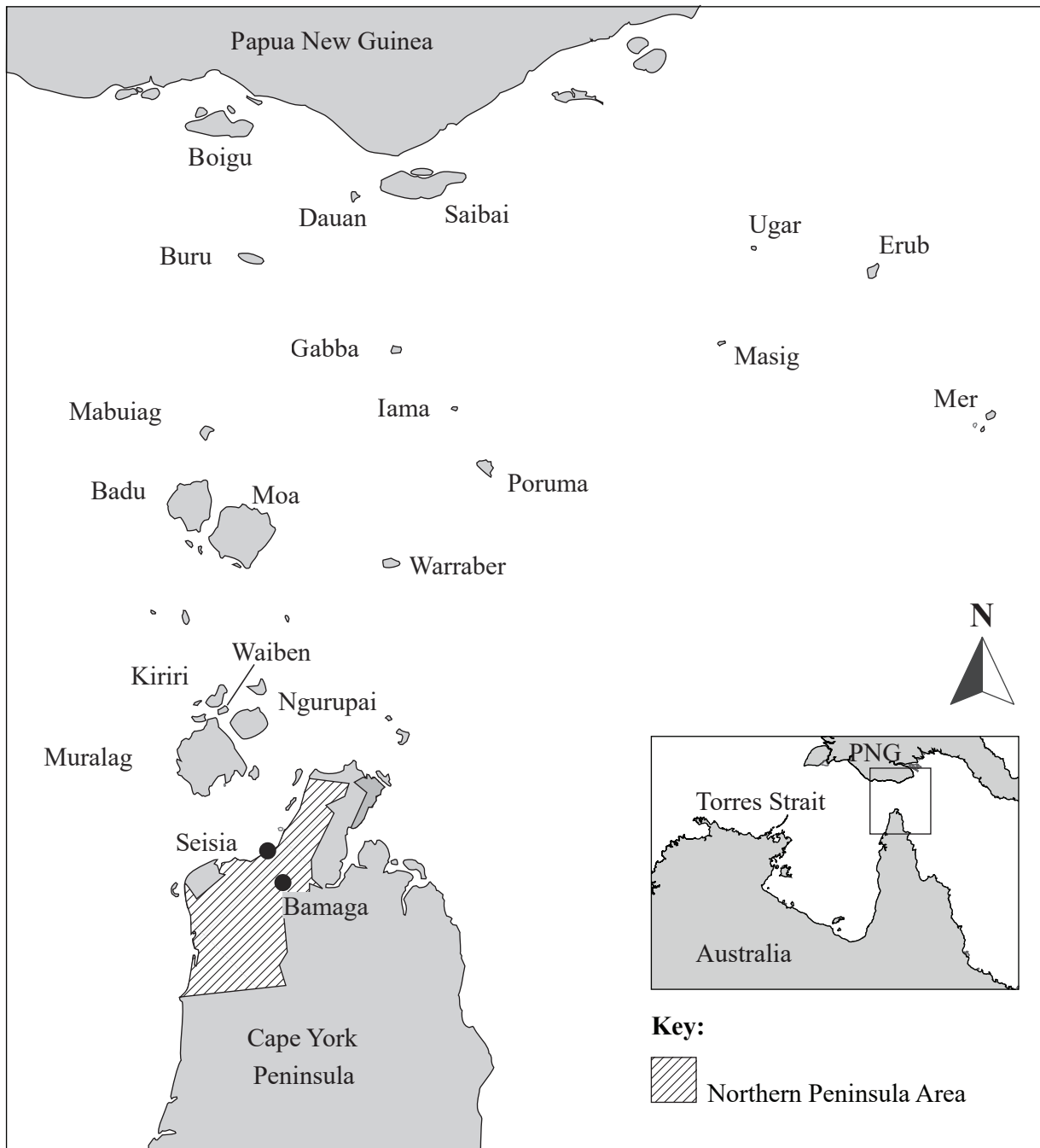
### **‘The Masig Statement — Malungu Yangu Wakay (The Voice from the Deep)’**

**The Masig Statement was launched on Masig in August 2022 to mark the 85th anniversary of the first Island Councillor Conference, which took place on the same island.**

The Masig Statement has been redacted for copyright reasons.

## Source 9

### Map of the Torres Strait Islands and Northern Peninsula Area



## Source 10

### Excerpt from online article, 2022

**This article was written by Keira Jenkins, a Gamilaroi woman, and Talei Elu, a Saibai Koedal (crocodile) woman from the Torres Strait Islander community of Seisia in Cape York.**

The communities of the Torres Strait are seeking self-determination and regional sovereignty, outlined in a four point plan called ‘The Masig Statement — Malungu Yangu Wakay ([The] Voice from the Deep)’.

...

On Tuesday, Torres Strait Islander people came together again, this time to deliver their own plan on Masig (Yorke) Island to coincide with the 85th anniversary of the First Island Councillor Conference, which took place on the same island in 1937.

...

North[ern] Peninsula Area Regional Council mayor Patricia Yusia said she’s proud to be part of this process.

‘I think the touching thing for me is everyone wants to make a difference and everyone wants to work in collaboration,’ she said.

‘Everyone acknowledges the Torres Strait is unique and also everyone is acknowledging what the leaders before them have done for Torres Strait.’

...

Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Phillemon Mosby [said] the statement is not an attempt for the Torres Strait to become its own territory.

‘Our message was quite clear from day dot, we’re not talking about something new, this conversation has existed since 1937 ... Torres Strait Islanders wanted more control and self-determination,’ he said.

‘We’re not asking to be a separate state or territory, ... [we’re asking] that we’re in control of our own affairs.’

Instead, Mr Mosby said [the statement is] about the region coming together to work as one.

...

‘I think it’s a statement for individuals to get involved in signing that statement as a way of working in collaboration, to have unity, one voice for Torres Strait Islanders.’

# References

## Source 1

Queensland Government 2022, 'Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment', *Queensland Government, Brisbane*, <https://www.qld.gov.au/firstnations/treaty/queenslands-path-to-treaty-commitment>. CC BY 4.0.

## Source 2

Extracted from Huggins, J 2022, *Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment* (speech excerpt), Parliament House ceremonial event, 16 August, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUzye4RHbBw> CC BY 4.0.

## Source 3

Victoria Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria 2021, *Joint Statement on Victoria's Truth and Justice Process*, Office of the Premier of Victoria, Melbourne, 9 March, <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/joint-statement-victorias-truth-and-justice-process>. CC BY 4.0.

## Source 4

Yoorrook Justice Commission n.d., 'About our logo', *Yoorrook*, Melbourne, <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/about-our-logo/>. Text available under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence (CC BY 4.0).

## Sources 5, 6 and 7

Department of Environment and Science 2020, *The Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026*, Queensland Government, [https://www.des.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/202033/the-gurra-gurra-framework.pdf](https://www.des.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/202033/the-gurra-gurra-framework.pdf). CC BY 4.0.

## Source 8

The Masig Statement, 23 August 2022, 'Malungu Yangu Wakay (The Voice from the deep)' recorded in *Hansard*, 8 September 2022, [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\\_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/25576/&sid=0205](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/25576/&sid=0205).

## Source 9

Stirling, L 2008, "'Double reference" in Kala Lagaw Ya narratives' in I Mushin & B Baker (eds), *Discourse and Grammar in Australian Languages*, John Benjamins Publishing Company, Netherlands, pp. 167–202, <https://doi.org/10.1075/slcs.104.10sti>.  
Map based on [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Torres\\_Strait\\_Islands\\_map.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Torres_Strait_Islands_map.svg)

## Source 10

Excerpt from Jenkins, K & Elu, T 2022, 'The Masig Statement: Torres Strait Islanders unveil 'Voice from the Deep'', *The Point*, <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/the-point/article/the-masig-statement-torres-strait-islanders-unveil-voice-from-the-deep/dr8y2x75k>. © SBS. Used under licence.



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