# What is Treaty?

A treaty is a signed, negotiated agreement that accepts our history and opens the door to a shared future. Treaties signed between governments and First Nations peoples around the world provide recognition that First Nations peoples are the original owners of the land and endured injustices as a result of colonisation.

Treaties have been used throughout the world as an accepted means for acknowledging past injustices, resolving differences and creating a foundation for reconciliation.

Treaties are shaped through the process of negotiation and agreement and should reflect the unique social, political and historical context that exists between the parties who are negotiating the treaty.

### Why does Queensland need a Treaty?

First Nations peoples have, for generations, been calling for a formal agreement (a treaty or treaties) to recognise First Nations peoples as the original occupiers of the land and waters.

A treaty or treaties, will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland community generally, to come together and negotiate a new way of being together and working, to deliver substantive outcomes for First Nations peoples.

Treaty provides an exciting opportunity to create a unified identity for all Queenslanders—one that recognises and protects the rights of First Nations peoples, cultures and way of life.

### **What Queenslanders** have said about Treaty

Informed by statewide consultations in 2019, three major themes emerged that informs the work we are doing today to become treaty ready.

- → Inclusion: Treaty is a conversation for all Queenslanders, both First Nations people and non-Indigenous people.
- → **Reconciliation:** Truth telling and healing are at the heart of our journey towards treaty.
- → Treaty ready: First Nations people and their communities are informed about the treaty process, and have an equal seat at the table to negotiate a treaty or treaties.

## What could a Treaty involve?

#### **Education**

School curriculum to include history of First Nations peoples

Education about truth telling and healing

> Cultural education for children + young people

#### Culture

Preservation of cultural knowledge

Cultural heritage

Formalising local governance + authority

Healing through culture: programs, centres, schools

Repatriation and return of items

#### Healing

Trauma recovery

Recognising cultural + spiritual healing practices

Memorials, shrines + healing places

Country

Return of land to

Traditional Owners

Protection + management of

cultural sites

Waterway use + management

Land use planning + development

Parks + wildlife management

Cultural landscaping +

architecture

#### **Tackling** Inequality

Redress / reparations for Stolen Generations

Social + economic development

Better housing programs

Grants and funding for community-led services

> Fconomic empowerment

#### Language

Revive + preserve language

Naming of places

Governance Respect for sovereignty

Self-determination

Decision-making

Constitution + participation requirements

> Formalising local governance + authority

#### Health

First Nations community-controlled health services

Culturally appropriate Mental Health programs

> Access to health services

#### Legal

Enforceability of treaty

Accountability mechanisms

Legal underpinning

#### Law + Justice

Justice responses + systems

First Nations child + family interventions

> Accountability + review

### Children

Keeping children in home or community

Education and early years

