

Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation First Peoples Assembly Reserved Seat Member Elections

Introducing the Candidates and Voting

We are pleased to announce the two candidates for the Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, First Peoples Assembly Reserved Seat Holder Member elections. The two candidates are **Jason Kelly** and **Nakia Firebrace**. Below is a statement from each candidate introducing themselves and stating why they want to represent you, a video is also available at our website www.wambawemba.com/elections.

Voting opens on the **07 January** and **closes** on the **22 January 2026**. Information on the role and how to vote is available at www.wambawemba.com/elections, or by contacting Bayden (Community Engagement Officer) at the office on 0475 392 883 or bayden.clayton@wambawemba.com.



Jason Kelly

I have been mentored all my life by my elders (many now passed) especially my grandmother, the famous Alice Kelly who received the 1988 National Aboriginal of the Year Award for her work. I bring local, state, National and International experience. I am the author of the resolution that delivered YooRook (itself a Wamba Wemba word for *truth*) Australia's first truth commission. As a champion for the grassroots community I have never once in any of my roles assumed to know what's best for mob but to listen and respond and carry mob voice as their representative.

If elected your representative I will immediately get to work by;

- Establishing a NW TO working group to sort regional priorities beginning with Land Rights
- Seek Assembly to secure Statewide water rights & secure Wamba Wemba shares for cultural flows to reinvigorate our water ways; lagoons, billabongs & inland areas that used to get natural flows. This will support re-creating safe clean habitat to bring back our plants & animals (totems) such as the platypus & Wiran (Red Tailed Black cockatoo).
- Housing remains a priority, especially new housing for allocation to enable Independent supported living for our mob with disabilities and our elderly.
- Wamba Wemba language to be taught at all schools in Wamba Wemba country.
- Work with Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation to establish our own TO treaty negotiation team & add value to ensure self-determination for the Nation is at the forefront with negotiating all things on Wamba Wemba country beginning with land rights.
- Ensure I am accessible to all Wamba Wemba people on both sides of the river.
- Remain committed to informing by monthly reporting and receive direction from Wamba Wemba community on Treaty reform priorities.
- Ensure all Wamba Wemba children are properly supported in school and hold not only the Education system but also the Justice department to account.

I have been involved in Treaty from day 1, I have the experience and skills and am ready to hit the ground running.



Nakia Firebrace

Hello My Wamba Wemba "Wiran Nation"

I have always been aware of Our Wamba Wemba Community Affairs. I understand the issues that have affected our peoples progress due to the Native title legislation and policies in the mid 1990's. Being multi-nation I completely understand the hurt it caused but more importantly the commitment from Our Gnericks and our community leaders back then and now to maintain the cause for our People.

Being the elected Chairperson in 2024 for our Wamba Wemba Nation is a privilege and honour. We as a Nation have faced many challenges from our local community and to state government expectations, and we have still risen above these obstacles and never forgotten who we are.

This role as a reserved seat holder for the Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation needs strong leadership and understanding to maintain the integrity and trust for Our community to thrive in the Treaty space in preparation and discussion. I have the skills and knowledge to engage All Wamba Wemba Nation peoples to create, capture and report the necessary feedback directly from the community. I have strong skills in understanding current Victorian legislation regarding Treaty and have a culturally strong network of Aboriginal peoples in the State to ensure that all Wamba Wemba Nation needs and sovereignty are protected and well supported in the Treaty process.

I am committed to being on Kurrek at the WWAC Office which is the only way to ensure all Wamba Wemba members have a contact point to yarn with me directly regarding Treaty with its concerns and construct for Wamba Wemba people to represent Our Wamba Affairs in the Treaty readiness and future development for negotiations when appropriate.

"Wiran Proud - Wiran Strong"