

**11.3 SUPPORT FOR ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART - RESPONSES**

- Attachments:**
- 1. Letter from Hon Ken Wyatt - Uluru Statement from the Heart**
  - 2. Letter from Hon Linda Burney - Uluru Statement from the Heart**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council

- 1. NOTES the receipt of letters from Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP and Hon Linda Burney MP in response to letters sent by the City of Vincent supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To present two letters received in response to letters from Mayor Emma Cole expressing Council's support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15 December 2020 a report outlining the City's support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart was passed unanimously with the following actions:

*That Council:*

- SUPPORTS the Uluru Statement from the Heart with the following actions:*
  - 1.1 acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners of this Country and pay respect to their ongoing spiritual and cultural connections;*
  - 1.2 recognises the need for constitutional change that goes beyond the symbolic, and gives breath to the benefits that a treaty offers all Australians as we move towards a reconciled Australia;*
  - 1.3 endorses the Mayor submitting a letter to the Prime Minister and key Federal Parliamentarians expressing Council's support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart; and*
  - 1.4 requests that there is a focus on community engagement and awareness surrounding the Uluru Statement from the Heart as part of the annual NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week events.*

Letters were sent by Mayor Emma Cole to the Prime Minister and key Federal Parliamentarians in March 2021 expressing Council's support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

**DETAILS:**

Two responses were received from the Minister for Indigenous Australians Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP as at **Attachment 1** and the Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon Linda Burney MP as at **Attachment 2**.

The letters were presented to the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) on 10 May.

**CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

Nil

**LEGAL/POLICY:**

Nil

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Low: It is low risk for Council to receive the letters.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Connected Community

*We recognise, engage and partner with the Whadjuk Noongar people and culture.*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

This does not contribute to any environmental sustainability outcomes.

**PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:**

This is not in keeping with any of the priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*.



**The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP**  
**Minister for Indigenous Australians**  
**Member for Hasluck**

Reference: MC21-001422

Councillor Emma Cole  
Mayor  
City of Vincent  
[Emma.Cole@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Cole@vincent.wa.gov.au)

  
Dear Mayor

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 March 2021 regarding the City of Vincent's support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2018 was formed to inquire into and report on matters relating to constitutional change, including considering the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Committee acknowledged further work is required to define the detail of an Indigenous Voice and recommended a co-design process ahead of considering its legal form.

In line with the recommendations of the Committee, the Morrison Government supports finalising the details of an Indigenous Voice through the co-design process ahead of considering its legal form. In October 2019, I announced the start of a co-design process to determine options for an Indigenous Voice.

Throughout 2020, three Indigenous Voice Co-design groups, made up of 52 mostly Indigenous members from around the country, have worked together. Through robust and rigorous discussion they have developed the detail of what an Indigenous Voice could look like, and how it could work. Consultation on these proposals is now underway.

Members developed proposals for an Indigenous Voice with two complementary parts, a National Voice and Local and Regional Voices. These proposals are detailed in the *Indigenous Voice Co-design Process Interim Report to the Australian Government*, available online at [voice.niaa.gov.au](http://voice.niaa.gov.au). A range of resources and consultation material outlining the proposals is also available on this site.

The co-design groups are currently seeking feedback on the proposed features of an Indigenous Voice. It is important that everyone has an opportunity to have a say on the proposals so that co-design groups can continue to refine them. There are a range of ways for the City of Vincent Council to provide feedback, including taking a survey, attending a consultation session, or providing a formal submission. Information about each of these opportunities, and more, is available online at [voice.niaa.gov.au](http://voice.niaa.gov.au).

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

As you would be aware, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap came into effect through signature by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, the Convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, the First Ministers of state and territory governments, and the President of the Australian Local Government Association in July 2020.

Listening to the voices of Indigenous Australians is vital to the success of Closing the Gap and the National Agreement requires all parties to work in partnership with Indigenous Australians in policy development and program and service delivery. All governments are expected to consider the views and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including Elders, Traditional Owners and Native Title holders, leaders and their communities and organisations in implementing these commitments.

Underpinning this new Agreement are four priority reforms that will change how governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These are:

- Shared decision making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments
- Building and working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled service sector
- Transforming mainstream government services to work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Building better data and sharing access to the right data to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make informed decisions with us.

The Morrison Government will continue working with all governments and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners to implement actions to achieve the outcomes of the National Agreement. More information is available at [www.closingthegap.gov.au](http://www.closingthegap.gov.au).

Thank you for raising these important matters and I encourage you and the City of Vincent Council to participate in the current Indigenous Voice consultation process.

Yours sincerely



The Hon KEN WYATT AM MP  
Minister for Indigenous Australians

29/4/2021

# Hon Linda Burney MP

Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services  
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

Ref:cityofvincent/MB

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Ms Emma Cole  
Mayor City of Vincent  
PO Box 82  
Leederville WA 6902

City Of Vincent Records  
RECEIVED

08 APR 2021

CTN Ref: \_\_\_\_\_  
REC No: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mayor *Emma*

## Uluru Statement from the Heart

Thank you for writing to me re the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Federal Opposition is committed to the Uluru Statement in its entirety:

1. Enshrining a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the constitution
2. Makarrata Commission
3. Treaty process

As you would be aware the Federal Government is undertaking consultations around the country on a co-design process for a Voice. When the Government finalises their process and provides a report to parliament, the ALP will consider the report and proposal at such time.

Regards



Linda Burney  
Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services  
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians



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