

7.1 SUPPORT FOR ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART - RESPONSE

Attachments: 1. **Correspondence from the Hon Ben Morton MP relating to the Uluru Statement from the Heart**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council **NOTES** the receipt of a letter on 2 November 2021 from Hon Ben Morton MP, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This letter is in response to a letter sent to the Prime Minister by the City of Vincent, in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present to Council a letter received from the Hon Ben Morton MP, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on 2 November 2021.

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:

1. *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:

On 2 November 2021 the City of Vincent received a response to the Mayor's letter to the Prime Minister, from the Hon Ben Morton MP, Minister assisting the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The letter is shown at **Attachment 1**.

The letter will be presented to the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) at its next meeting.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

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 does not contribute to any public health outcomes of the City's Public Health Plan 2020-2025



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

City Of Vincent Records
RECEIVED

02 NOV 2021

CTN Ref: _____
REC No: _____

Reference: MC21-031567

Mayor Emma Cole
City of Vincent
PO Box 82
LEEDERVILLE WA 6902

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 24 March 2021 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I would like to thank you for supporting an Indigenous Voice and acknowledge your view that it needs to be enshrined in the Constitution. The Indigenous Voice Final Report was provided to the Government on 30 July 2021 and the Government is considering the details of the Final Report.

The Morrison Government remains committed to holding a referendum to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Constitution, once there is consensus and a strong chance of a referendum succeeding.

On 5 August 2021, the Morrison Government tabled its Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. This Plan sets a foundation for our efforts in achieving the targets over the life of the National Agreement and is accompanied by new investments totalling more than \$1 billion to support achieving the Priority Reforms and Targets.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister. I have copied the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP into our correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Morton'.

BEN MORTON

20/10/2021

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600