

# Aboriginal Constitutional Recognition Position Statement

## Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Fundamental Principles of LGNSW: (G) Social and Community.

## Background

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) acknowledges the significance of the Statement from the Heart issued at the 2017 First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru and supports the principle of the Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Australia is one of the few first world nations with a colonial history that does not recognise its Aboriginal population in the Constitution. LGNSW believes that Constitutional change will build stronger relationships of trust and mutual respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Local government in NSW can be instrumental in this campaign as it is best connected to communities at the grass roots level.

LGNSW commends the Commonwealth government on its work in honouring and recognising the unique historical position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Our Position

LGNSW supports a co-design process for achieving Constitutional recognition that considers legislative, executive and Constitutional options, including a referendum, and suits the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

LGNSW:

- Supports the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and seeks that the Australian Government initiate a process of co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, consider establishing a First Nations Voice, support the process of truth-telling and consider the establishment of a National Resting Place in Canberra as a place of commemoration, healing and reflection.
- Encourages councils to progress the Constitutional recognition campaign at the local level and build support among all political leaders to advocate for a referendum.
- Supports community awareness campaigns on the importance of Constitutional recognition to redress any disproportionate disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Comment [EB1]:** Sections highlighted in yellow shows update to original Position Statement.

**Comment [EB2]:** The original second dot point has been removed as it is encompassed in this dot point (taken from the Joint Select Committee's recommendations).

The original dot point was:  
•Advocates for ongoing liaison with Aboriginal leaders and communities.

Date Created: August 2017

Date Reviewed: