

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Wanam, Winchanam, Puch, Apalech and Sara clans

Aurukun, 15 April 2021, session and meetings

Number of participants: 18

Key points raised

Please note, this is a summary of the discussion and the views and opinions expressed by participants in consultation sessions. It is not intended to be an exhaustive summary of all points raised, but draws out the key points.

There were 18 participants in the consultation session and meetings. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Overarching points

- Participants agree there is a need for an Indigenous Voice.
 - “Without a voice, we are voiceless”.
 - “We need governments to hear the issues in our communities”.
 - “It’s about time things like this happened. The parliament needs to listen to community voices”.
 - “We are the ones experiencing this life every day. This is a good opportunity for us”.
- Council spoke of how many families have been on this journey since the Referendum Council regional dialogues and Uluru Statement, have attended summits and consultations, and support the Indigenous Voice.
- One participant spoke of how the Voice is a very important and ancient element. At the moment there seems to be a void created when the old leaders passed on. However, there are some emerging leaders now. “We want to be recognised, we want to make an impact for the future. We are trying to pass the same voice on, the voice that we have had for centuries”
 - The co-design members spoke of how this co-design process is just the beginning stages and will be recognition of the voice of the people. The Wik peoples still have a strong culture, with clan structure, and languages. The Voice needs to fit with that ancient culture that is already here. It is the Voice that makes the difference.

Local & Regional Voice

- Participants spoke to the many different areas of government policy that could be informed by community, of which the Local and Regional Voice could provide that mechanism. The co-design members spoke of the proposal and said the Local and Regional Voice would be formed by the community and it would reflect the community’s priorities. It would be important that the Local and Regional Voice talk to every level of government and sit down with governments at a shared-decision making table. A community representative on a Local and Regional Voice would be able to raise issues from community and work with the governments to come up with a plan that would work for community.
- One participant spoke of the violence in the community and the need for a Local and Regional Voice to help stop that, to help maintain the peace. In particular, the Voice could “talk about the future for our children”.



- One participant noted the need to be able to speak to the state government. As an example, they spoke of the need for more culture to be in schools, and this is a state government matter.
- A participant spoke of the critical need to address housing and infrastructure, noting that the housing isn't fit for purpose for an environment with cyclones.
- A participant talked about many community members getting the right training, such as tickets to operate machinery, working with children and policy checks, but there is not enough employment.
- Another participant spoke about how previous criminal histories can prevent people from accessing jobs, and the impact this can have on a community.
 - Co-design members spoke for an example in Western Australian where a local mining company worked with community and the state government to support people into jobs. This is an example of how the Local and Regional Voice could raise community issues with the state government and work in partnership to find a solution.
- At the end of this discussion, a participant said: "Community needs to get together and develop an Indigenous Voice. The voice could help with the issues in community. We need one body in Aurukun and we can deal with a lot of matters. We do have a lot of great strong speakers and leaders."
- Another participant said "we could bring all the bodies together to become one Voice". A participant also said "the Local and Regional Voice could be the opportunity for all the good ideas coming from community".