

# Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

## Consultation session details

Kalkadoon country,

Mt Isa, 21 April 2021, 9.30am - 12noon, Session 1

Number of participants: 39

## 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.*

The session was attended by 39 participants who were welcomed to country by Margaret Caulton. Key points discussed are summarised below.

### *Overarching points*

- Participants agreed there needs to be a Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Participants raised the issue of the Mt Isa Aboriginal community being comprised of a considerable population of Aboriginal people from the Northern Territory migrating into and out of the region, as one which would need to be taken into account when considering appropriate and inclusive representation for the region.
- One participant commented they had reviewed the Indigenous Voice public session notes for Toowoomba, and they shared similar concerns around resourcing and ensuring adequate support for the Indigenous Voice to be set up properly.
- Participants commented that the name “Indigenous Voice” should be changed to “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice”.
- One participant noted there currently is not an established body that could be representative of the Mt Isa region, and that this may be the opportunity for people in the community to start talking about how representation could be structured from the ground up.

### *Local & Regional Voice*

- Participants expressed interest in the principles-based framework, in particular the principles of data and evidence-based decision making, non-duplication and links with existing bodies, and cultural leadership.
- One participant commented that the principle of transparency and accountability would be a major improvement to help communities, particularly given it should be applicable not only to the Indigenous Voice but also to bureaucracies.
- One participant queried how a Local & Regional Voice might be shaped in the region, and whether it might be one that encompasses Mt Isa and the Gulf. It was emphasised that this would be dependent on communities in the region agreeing on boundaries, rather than boundaries being dictated to regions in a top-down approach. Factors to take into account could include the relationships between communities, and the migration of people throughout the area.



*National Voice*

- Participants expressed interest in the proposal to have appointed members to ensure there is adequate representation for remote and regional areas.
- One participant raised the issue of the sustainability of the proposed National Voice in the long term and suggested it would be critical to ensure the National Voice is set up to genuinely reflect views from the ground up, and not simply select prominent voices.
- Some participants expressed concern at the proposal to have two (2) members for Queensland. One participant feared both memberships could be taken up by people from south-east Queensland, and suggested there could be one (1) guaranteed seat for someone from the east coast, and well as one (1) guaranteed for someone from the western, more regional half of the state. Another participant suggested Queensland might need to have three (3) National Voice members, to be able to have representation also for communities in the far north in addition to the west and south-east.