

Dr Rosalie Chapple
[REDACTED]
Katoomba 2780 NSW

28/4/21

To Co-Design Body

Co-design process: Submission for Rosalie Chapple

I was born in rural south-east Australia and have worked in conservation all of my adult life. With a PhD in animal ecology, I teach about conservation at university and am actively engaged with protected area management and research. Increasingly, as a non-Indigenous person, I have become concerned about the treatment of the First Nations people and the loss of their valuable knowledge and our mis-treatment of the natural environment. I am now developing new courses, both academic (at UNSW) and professional development, to ethically and equitably bring together Indigenous knowledge with western science, for a better future for us all.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart provides a strategic roadmap to peace, where First Nations peoples take a rightful place in their own land.

It is unconscionable that First Nations people do not have a say in matters that affect them.

It is important that constitutional recognition is not separated from the idea of a First Nations Voice. I am overwhelmingly in support of constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice. Enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament. The membership model for the National Voice must ensure previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same chance of being selected as established leadership figures.

The Government must honour its election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled to ensure that a First Nations Voice to Parliament is protected by the Constitution.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosalie Chapple