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18 March, 2021

Submission to Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process

Support for a VOICE to Parliament

I understand you are working on an Interim Report to the Australian Government. May I add my thoughts here?

I believe we have an obligation to restore balance and fairness after over two hundred years of colonial inequities. Not only do we have the obligation to improve the lives of First Nations People, we need to listen to their advice on matters of ecology and sustainability of the Australian landscape.

I stand in solidarity with First Nations people in their call to be genuinely listened to, through the establishment of a permanent advisory First Nations Voice that can form the basis of a reliable, ongoing seat at the table of government, in parliament and ideally enshrined in the Constitution.

The call from the Statement of the Heart for truth-telling, for a Makarrata Commission to supervise treaty-making, and for a national voice, is an invitation which we, as fair-minded Australians, would be wise to act upon.

It is time for the Australian government to honour and respect its First nations Peoples in both a symbolic and practical way.

Sincerely

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