

My name is [REDACTED] and I was born on Kurna Country.

I am currently working in Natural Resource Management on Kurna Country. Through my work, I prioritise native Indigenous species of flora and fauna in an effort to conserve the precious natural resources we have left, while also revegetating affected areas with the Indigenous species who have lived on Kurna country since the beginning of time.

This Country's beauty and biodiversity is unmatched and it has been destroyed in the name of 'progress' for too long. The destruction of indigenous species and prioritising of non-native flora and fauna is a form of racism that has been perverse throughout our colonial history and has harmed the country irreversibly. I believe strongly in the 'Caring as Country' method of NRM and believe that with a lot of hard work we can regain some of our natural beauty.

I am ashamed of my country's history of treatment of Indigenous people. I am also ashamed and frustrated by the current behaviour and lack of action from people in positions of power in relation to Indigenous issues.

People have been silenced and gaslit for the entire existence of 'Australia'. Our country cannot begin to heal while people in power continue to deny facts. This land was invaded, not settled, it always has been and always will be Aboriginal land.

I agree strongly with these points and believe that it is one of many steps that Australia must take if we are going to be a peaceful and prosperous nation in the future.

1. 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;
2. Enabling legislation for the Voice must be passed after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament; and
3. 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.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]