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# ARUP

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Dear Sir/Madam

## Arup response to Indigenous Voice Discussion Paper

Arup is an international advisory, design, planning and engineering consultancy with 1300 staff in Australia. We deliver a wide range of projects across the built environment for public and private clients. For over 25 years we have worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, organisations and businesses, across urban, regional and remote Australia.

Arup's aim is to **shape a better world**. This underpins not only the work we do but also the way we do it. Arup strongly believes in the value of equal opportunities for all and is committed to reconciliation (through our Reconciliation Action Plan) and inclusion.

Arup recognises many of our own values in the principles outlined in the Indigenous Voice Discussion Paper, in particular: *Empowerment, Inclusive Participation, Community-led Design, Capability Driven and Data and Evidence-based Decision Making*. We've witnessed the value of these principles in our own work across all our projects, and also witnessed compromised project outcomes in instances where it has not been possible to apply all of these principles.

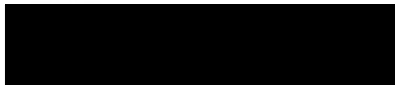
Our experience is that effective ongoing local engagement and participation leads to more successful projects that help build capacity, realise opportunities and provide long term sustainable outcomes for local communities.



**Arup supports the proposal for a Voice to Parliament for Australia's First Nation peoples that:**

- Is co-designed, developed and implemented with the **continued involvement and support of** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- Enables both the National Voice as well as the local and regional Voice, **to ensure meaningful representation** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at different levels of government and decision making
- Has the ability to **hear from a diversity of Voices** within communities and across geographies
- Includes mechanisms to **enhance the capability of communities** to participate and be represented in the Voice

Yours sincerely

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Rachel Nicholls  
Principal

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