



21st April 2021

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**Interim Report to the Australian Government:
Indigenous Voice-Co-Design Process, January 2021
Perpetual Submission, 21st April 2021**

Perpetual calls for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

We want to see an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and businesses are self-sustaining, self-determined and are valued for their contribution to the Australian experience.

Perpetual supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart and unequivocally calls for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution. We do so in support of the important work our employees do with clients - many of whom are driving positive social change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through their philanthropy and non-profit organisations.

Perpetual welcomes the Government's Interim Co-Design Report and acknowledges the significant work undertaken by the three co-design committees, led by co-chairs Professor Marcia Langton AM and Professor Tom Calma AO. This submission is intended to support the views, ideas and requests of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this issue and to contribute to the public consultation process.

In this spirit, Perpetual fully endorses the submissions made by the Uluru Dialogue and From the Heart and echoes their key points, these being:

- The Government must honour its election commitment to hold a referendum once the model for the National Voice has been settled;
- Enabling legislation for the National Voice must be passed after a referendum and in the next term of Parliament; and
- 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 previously established leadership figures.

Perpetual supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in determining their own membership of the National Voice and does not believe government appointments to the National Voice are required or warranted. Membership must be diverse and represent the breadth of First Nations peoples' history, culture, experience, views and opinion. Membership must be open, accessible and community led.

No other proposal for constitutional reform has been endorsed by Australia's First Nations people, with the Uluru Statement, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people called for a National Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution, it is for this reason that Perpetual supports this recommendation.

Kind regards

Mark Smith
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