

26 April 2021

Submission in response to the Interim Report to the Australian Government: Indigenous Voice Co-design Process

We welcome the opportunity to make this submission to the Australian Government in response to the *Interim Report to the Australian Government: Indigenous Voice Co-design Process* and to express our strong support for a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution.

David Jones and Country Road Group acknowledge First Nations peoples as traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia, and recognise their continuing cultural connection to the lands and waters of this continent.

As a leading Australian business, we acknowledge that we too play an active role in driving forward the journey towards reconciliation and equality. We accept the responsibility to promote reconciliation within our workplace and our sphere of influence, and understand that we, like so many Australian businesses, have much more work to do.

David Jones and Country Road Group have accepted the generous invitation extended by First Nations peoples in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* to walk with them in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

We recognise and respect the First Nations peoples who have cared for the lands and waters of this continent for more than 60,000 years, and walk alongside our First Nations peers on a journey towards reconciliation, equality and constitutional protection of their right to be heard.

We believe First Nations peoples must have a say in laws and policies that affect them. As such, we stand up and support the proposal in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament.

We respectfully urge the Australian Government to honour its election commitment to hold a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled and to pass enabling legislation for the Voice after a referendum has been held in the next term of Parliament.

We also urge the government to ensure the membership model for the Voice supports previously unheard Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in having an equal chance at being selected as representatives as established leadership figures.

We also support the two additional key elements for reform in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*; a Makarrata Commission to oversee agreement-making between the Australian Government and First Nations peoples, and a formal truth-telling process, each critical steps towards reconciliation.

We stand proudly alongside our First Nations peers to champion their rightful place within our nation so that we can move forward, together.

Regards,

Scott Fyfe – CEO, David Jones | Elle Roseby - Simon Schofield - Rosetta D'Amico – CRG Leadership Team