

Voice Secretariat  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)  
By email only: [Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au](mailto:Co-designVoice@niaa.gov.au)

14 April 2021

**Good Environmental Choice Australia's (GECA) submission to the Interim Voice Report Public Consultation. This submission is made on behalf of the organisation, staff, and board members of GECA.**

GECA's vision is for a sustainable future for people and the planet, with a purpose to create solutions for sustainable consumption and production. We know that sustainability cannot be achieved without acknowledging the interconnectedness of the environment and people.

We recognise that First Nations peoples have occupied and cared for this continent (that we live and work on) for over 65,000 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are Australia's first people, with a rich history of traditions, laws, customs, stories and strong connection to Country, land, and sovereignty. We therefore *strongly* support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the call for Constitutional Enshrinement of a First Nation's Voice. A First Nations Voice, and the protection of it, is essential to a sustainable future for all Australian people.

We are committed to the Uluru Statement's invitation to "walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future". We highly honour this invitation as a gift and strategic roadmap to peace and sustainability for Australia. GECA firmly supports all three key elements of the Uluru Statement:

**Voice:** A First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution

**Treaty:** A process for agreement making

**Truth:** Truth-telling about our history, with both Treaty and Truth overseen by a Makarrata Commission.

GECA believes that the responses to the matters raised in the Interim Voice Report and discussion paper is to reflect the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations as a prime informant, and we support this process along with the following key points:

1. The government must honour its election commitment to a referendum once a model for the Voice has been settled;
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.



This country is overdue for fair and practical reform that is meaningful, strives for reconciliation and healing, embraces the wisdom of First Nations peoples, culture, connection to Country, land, and sovereignty, and promotes a sustainable future for all.

Yours sincerely,

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