



# ALTIOREM

Change finance for good

*This submission is in response to the Interim Voice Co-Design Report and is made by the staff and board of Altiorem Ltd, the world's first community built sustainable finance library.*

Altiorem welcomes the opportunity to make this submission 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.

As an Australian charity with a mission to promote education on sustainability issues including human rights and social justice, recognition of the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's history is of significant interest to us. We acknowledge the racial, structural and institutional obstacles that have, since colonisation, resulted in the dispossession and exclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This history continues to prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from participating fully, and being represented equally, within our society. The dire consequences of this are outlined each year in the Closing the Gap report.

We believe that as the first stewards of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture should hold a special and celebrated place in the institutions and fabric of modern Australian society. In addition, and consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should have a say on the laws, policies and services that impact their lives. We support efforts, like the Voice Co-Design process, that promote greater self-determination for Indigenous Australians. We believe an Indigenous Voice, enshrined in the constitution could provide the necessary mechanism in a fair and practical way.

It is in this context that we support the change to our Commonwealth political institutions to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Constitution. We call for:

- The government to call a referendum once a model for the First Nations Voice has been agreed;
- Enabling legislation for the First Nations Voice to be passed in the next term of Parliament after a referendum has been held; and
- The membership model for the First Nations Voice to ensure First Nations people who are not established leadership figures to be heard as well as those established leaders.

We believe such reforms have the potential to see a new and more hopeful era in the long process of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. The Uluru Statement from the Heart was an extraordinary gift, offering all Australians the opportunity to build a better and more just future together. We encourage the Government and all Australians to take this opportunity with both hands.

Sincerely,

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