

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - SUPPORT FOR AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VOICE

This year Australians will vote on a constitutional amendment to include specific reference to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Federal Parliament and Executive Government.

On 23 March 2023, the Prime Minister announced the constitutional amendment and question that will be put to the Australian people at a referendum later this year.

The wording of the referendum is “A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?”

The proposed constitutional amendment is:

**Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

*129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice*

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

1. There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
3. The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

The Government hopes to pass the Constitution Alteration Bill through the Parliament by the end of June, with the referendum to be held between October and December this year.

On 6 June 2022 Wollongong City Council resolved to develop a response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The following recommendation is a logical extension of that endorsement and implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Wollongong City Council -

- 1 Support the constitutional amendment and referendum question to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- 2 Progress this by listening respectfully to the views and needs of the local Aboriginal community.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.