Wednesday 5 April 2023

Attributable to Pat Anderson AO on behalf of the Uluru Dialogue:

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was intentionally issued as an invitation to the Australian people, not politicians or any one political party.

After 12 years, seven processes and ten reports, the Liberal Party have made a decision to campaign for a "No" vote. This ignores the majority of First Nations Peoples at the grassroots across the country, ignores the months of work done by three referendum working groups to ensure the wording is sound, and ignores the majority view of their own constituents.

Their decision is a vote for business as usual. It is a vote for the domination of Canberra politicians and Canberra bureaucrats in the lives of grassroots communities. It seeks to entrench the status quo which is failing our people. Legislative bodies have come and gone, only constitutional enshrinement will guarantee First Nations Peoples will have an enduring say and ultimately improve First Nations lives.

The proposal for a constitutionally enshrined Voice came from First Nations Communities across Australia and will have grassroots representation. Eighty per cent of First Nations Peoples support it (Ipsos, January 2023).

It’s the Australian people who will decide the outcome of this referendum.

We will not be deterred. Our focus remains on educating the Australian people about how important this reform will be to the lives of First Nations Peoples – to give us a say in the policies and laws that impact our everyday lives.

We call on all Australians to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

ENDS

The Uluru Statement from the Heart
Created in 2017, the Uluru Dialogue is the collective of First Nations leaders including many of the architects and authors of the Uluru Statement from the Heart who lead community education on the Uluru Statement’s reforms of Voice, Makarrata. They are the custodians of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Uluru Dialogue is based at the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW Sydney.

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