ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart.

Our 13 territories and 264 Indigenous nations were the first peoples on this continent, and this Place of the Bondi, encompassing this land and waters, is under our care, love and responsibility.

This land and waters hold the stories of our ancestors and the stories of our children. This is the Country of the First Peoples, the Country of the Bondi.

This Connection is a spiritual relation, the connectedness of all people, the principle of Country and the principle of Community.

The first peoples of this continent have a right to self-determination and to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

This is a recognition of the ongoing Nature of our Country and the ongoing story of our struggle.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.

We, the First Peoples of this continent, have a duty to care for this Place of the Bondi and to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same rights and responsibilities that we have enjoyed.
ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from ‘time immemorial’, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or ‘mother nature’, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia’s nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are aliened from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

https://wwwreferendumcouncil.org.au