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## Reconciliation NSW welcomes NSW Labor party treaty announcement

Reconciliation NSW has welcomed today's NSW Labor party announcement by leader Chris Minns to embark on Treaty if they win at the state election in March.

Minns committed Labor to \$5 million for statewide consultations with Aboriginal communities about treaty, saying it would happen within the first 12 months if Labor is elected, after the national Voice referendum, and said the process would move ahead regardless of the outcome of the referendum. "We don't see this as being in conflict or competition with the Voice at the national level, we see it as an important complement... to shape the nature of that Voice to parliament," said Mr Minns.

Victoria is leading the way in treaty making and has demonstrated that the treaty making process can be concurrent with the national commitment to a referendum. Each state needs their own treaty making process that reflects the First Nations communities within them.

Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, David Harris MP, said the government has passed edicts down from the top to the bottom for too long. "Closing the Gap tells us that hasn't worked," he said. "So, we're now going from the community approach – from the bottom up, to make sure the community has a strong voice in telling government what their needs are, to improve their lives and their outcomes."

Reconciliation NSW Indigenous Co-Chair, Josh Gilbert (Worimi) agreed: "We know from longstanding international evidence that putting First Peoples at the forefront of decision-making leads to better outcomes. We hope that the work done by the committee will contribute to moving NSW in the right direction, to improve outcomes across all socio economic areas affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

"As one of the only two states lacking a pathway to treaty, we're encouraged. Our Reconciliation NSW members from across the state stand firmly behind the move towards treaty and voice, and we were delighted to be asked to contribute to the process," Mr. Gilbert said.

"We believe NSW is ready for Treaty. As a bipartisan organisation, Reconciliation NSW looks forward to working with Governments towards better representation and decision making across NSW and in Australia, which we believe will create a more reconciled, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians," Mr. Gilbert said.



### Reconciliation NSW

For more information about our work, go to <http://www.reconciliationnsw.org.au>

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