



03 August 2021

Hon. Warren Snowdon MP
Labor member for Lingjari
Shadow Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians
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The Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture (AILA) wishes to express support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart's invitation to "walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future".

AILA acknowledge and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia, as the traditional custodians of our lands, waters and seas. AILA recognise their ability to care for 'Country' and their deep spiritual connection with 'Country'. AILA honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

AILA aim:

- to identify, propose, support and advance Reconciliation with First Australians within AILA.
- to support a change in the culture of landscape architecture in Australia (ethics, governance, education, and practice), from its settler-based origins to a respectful inclusion of multiple Aboriginal Countries and communities.
- to enable greater capacity building for Indigenous leadership and representation within AILA activities including the integral support of Cultural Ambassadors and greater Indigenous membership.

AILA acknowledges and supports an Indigenous Voice

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are rich in knowledge, passing stories from generation to generation. They hold a unique place in our nation's story. The next step in this story is to make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have more of a say on the laws, policies, and services that impact their lives. An Indigenous Voice could provide a mechanism for Indigenous Australians in communities around the country to have a say on how to improve their lives.

An Indigenous Voice could:

- provide advice and input on decisions, laws, policies, programs, and services that are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- be made up of two parts – Local and Regional Voices and a National Voice.



AILA supports the Uluru Statement

The Australian people want a referendum on establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution. AILA support the Uluru Statement and its call for a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution.

AILA through its members support a "Yes" vote in a referendum on a Voice.

AILA does not support a legislation-first approach

A legislated Voice before a referendum does not meet the aspirations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. AILA do not want you, as the elected representative (and your party) to support a legislated Indigenous Voice. If a Bill is introduced, AILA do not want you to support the Bill.

A legislated Voice alone will not deliver the authority and certainty it requires to be a durable Voice for First Nations on laws and policies that affect them. It is the status quo.

A legislated Voice will derail momentum for a constitutional Voice. Constitutional recognition, after 14 years, 7 processes and 9 reports, will not be achieved. The nation loses an opportunity for change.

AILA acknowledges:

90% of submissions in response to the Interim Voice Report support a First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution.

Four years of polling since Uluru consistently shows the Voice to Parliament would succeed at referendum.

AILA encourages:

AILA want you, as the representative, to act with URGENCY to support putting a referendum to the Australian people to constitutionally protect a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Prepared by on behalf of AILA

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AILA National Connection to Country Committee Co-Chairs

Reference:

Indigenous Voice Discussion Paper, Commonwealth of Australia 2021

Connection to Country Terms of Reference, AILA 2020

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Constitution, AILA 2019

About the Australian Landscape Architects



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet

Who we are and what we do

AILA is the peak national body for the Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship. We provide our members with training, recognition, and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas, and action. With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in landscape architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment.

In operation since 1966, AILA represents over 2,500 members Australia wide and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing better places, Australian landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through integrated nature-based solutions delivering better environmental, social, and economic outcomes for all Australians.

AILA's national position statements on Green Infrastructure, Climate Positive Design, Child Friendly Cities, Healthy Communities and Active Travel examine how an integrated approach can be used to shape the health and wellbeing of communities. Landscape architects plays a central role in developing and implementing these strategies.

Our Queensland members are distributed across the State in the capital and throughout many regional centres. They range from sole traders to large internationally recognised practices, and are embedded within local and state government creating significant and profound community impact at a variety of scales.

AILA's values focus on the design, delivery, and management of:

1. Quality Public Places

Examples include Southbank, Howard Smith Wharves, Hastings Street Noosa;

2. Stronger Communities

Through public open space networks, parks, sporting complexes, and

3. Environmental Stewardship

Through ecological restoration (flood, fire, weeds and contaminated waterways).

As landscape architects, we resolve to protect and sustain our landscapes. We affirm that self-sustaining landscapes are essential to our planet by placing a high value on the protection of living landscapes and taking a thoughtful approach to their change. We resolve to restore damaged landscapes to health. We recognise each landscape is best cared for by the community as a whole. We work to reveal the value of each landscape to all parties so that they can work in its best interests. We work collaboratively with the community and with other professionals to ensure the best outcome for each place.