

Aboriginal Constitutional Recognition Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

- (7) Local government is committed to the principles of:*
- a. Equity – fair distribution of resources*
 - b. Rights – equality for all people*
 - c. Access – to services essential to quality of life*
 - d. Participation – of all people in their community*
 - e. Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities.*

Background

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has supported the principle of the Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Australia is one of the few first world nations with a colonial history that does not recognise its Aboriginal population in the Constitution. LGNSW believes that Constitutional change will build stronger relationships of trust and mutual respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Local government in NSW can be instrumental in this campaign as it is best connected to communities at the grass roots level.

Our Position

LGNSW:

- **Commends the Commonwealth government** on its work in honouring and recognising the unique historical position of Aboriginal people and **requests a referendum for Constitutional recognition** of Aboriginal Australians.
- Advocates for ongoing liaison with Aboriginal leaders and communities.
- Encourages councils to progress the constitutional recognition campaign at the local level and build support with non-Aboriginal political leaders to advocate for a referendum.
- Supports community awareness campaigns on the importance of Constitutional recognition to redress any disproportionate disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal peoples.

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