



Presented to	15 November 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council
Related to Item	Motion with Notice – Support for Uluru Statement from the Heart
Submitted by	Cr Wheatland
Attachments	Nil

X With Notice	to be provided 4 clear working days prior to the meeting
Without Notice	an absolute majority resolution of the Council will be required for the motion to be considered
For Urgent Consideration	Mayoral approval required

That Council joins with other local governments across WA and Australia and the National General Assembly of Local Government to accept the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Council hears and supports the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution and for a referendum on these matters and looks forward to working with our constituents, other levels of government and all Australians to take this next step in our shared future.

- 1 Requires the Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team to undertake Cultural Awareness Training and Development to further deepen our understanding of First Nations People and Culture, and other culturally diverse groups from across the City of Melville;**
- 2 Directs the CEO to work collaboratively with First Nations people to discuss and develop a means for engaging with council, and to report back on proposed methods for securing effective engagement. The report should:**
 - a) identify how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be engaged in the City's ongoing Place Names project and Reconciliation Action Plan;**
 - b) consider how the City might work with the First Nations Voice once established with respect to the development of relevant local government policy and laws; and**
 - c) identify the appropriate allocation of resources required.**
- 3 Amends the budget to allocate \$40,000 to provide the additional estimated resources required to implement the decision.**

Reasons for the Motion

- Most Local Governments, including the City of Melville, struggle to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in general community consultation processes. A voice to Council would help to overcome these gaps.
- Reconciliation in Melville is about a positive shared future, grounded in respect, opportunities, and strong relationships.
- Currently the City of Melville are reviewing their Stretch Reconciliation Action (RAP) Plan, (3rd plan), which includes relationships, opportunities, and respect. A RAP is an action plan. The City of Melville is a leading advocate for reconciliation and is demonstrating a deep dedication for making progress.



- Already several Local Governments in Western Australia have endorsed the Uluru Statement from the heart, in turn supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. The City of Bayswater, City of Fremantle, City of Stirling, Shire of Denmark, Mayors across Australia have all made this decision.
- Local governments are in a unique position to help spread the message and invitation in the Uluru Statement.
- Local governments are close to their communities, and experts in finding ways to effectively communicate with them. They can play a crucial role in building the grassroots support needed for a successful referendum to enshrine the First Nations Voice in the Constitution.
- And of course, as the third tier of government, they are uniquely placed to answer the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, be part of the process of structural reform and, in partnership with local Indigenous communities, help lead Australia towards a better future based on justice and self-determination.
- Australians were reminded during National Reconciliation Week what an amazing show of faith the Uluru Statement is in the Australian community, Ambassador Stan Grant stated, "A people historically locked out of this democracy are saying that they want in.' What a profound statement of faith in our community that a people for whom the Constitution was written to exclude was saying that same Constitution can hold their dreams."
- The latest Closing the Gap 2020 report continues to highlight significant discrepancies between non- Aboriginal people and Aboriginal people, particularly in the areas of life expectancy, childhood mortality, school attainment and employment. More work is required to close the gap in such discrepancies that continue to cause harm to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Voice, Treaty, Truth.
- This action further strengthens our commitment to our First Nations Community and provides a public statement that supports change.
- The lack of constitutional recognition of First Nations peoples is one of Australia's longest standing unresolved issues.
- Forwards our Reconciliation Action Plan journey.
- To build relationships create culturally safe environments and community.
- Additional funds will be required to undertake the work required to implement the decision such as consultancy and/or additional staff resources, cultural knowledge fees, community engagement and associated costs

I have discussed this matter with Officers

Office Use Only

ECM Number

Date Received

Distributed

Officer Comment / Notes