



## Attorney-General

Mr Adam Bandt MP  
Leader of the Australian Greens  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: [adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Bandt

I refer to our discussions last year and more recently, and your colleague Senator Thorpe's letter of 14 December 2022.

As the Government has made clear repeatedly, the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution does not affect the sovereignty of any group or body, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Such a view has also been expressed clearly and unequivocally, on the public record, by many eminent legal experts over the course of the last decade including, most recently, by Dr Hannah McGlade and Professor George Williams.

I also note that the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians obtained legal advice in 2011 which made it clear that recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution would not impact on questions of sovereignty.

As you know, the Government has committed to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full – beginning with a referendum to enshrine a Voice in the Constitution, as proposed in the Uluru Statement itself.

As the Prime Minister said at the Garma Festival:

*I am determined, as a Government, as a country, that we grasp that hand of healing, we repay that faith, we rise to the moment.*

*To work with you in lifting the words off the page and lifting the whole nation up:*

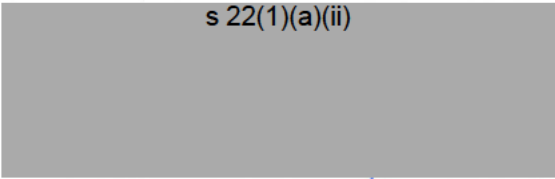
- *With a new spirit of partnership between government and First Nations people*
- *Through the work of Makarrata, treaty-making and truth-telling*
- *And by enshrining a Voice to Parliament, in the Constitution.*

The Government will continue to reiterate its commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement in full, including in the course of the legislative debate about the Constitution Alteration Bill and in the associated legislative materials.

I look forward to the Australian Greens reiterating the party's own support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including the establishment of a constitutionally-enshrined Voice to Parliament.

Yours sincerely

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**THE HON MARK DREYFUS KC MP**

2 / 2 / 2023

*CC Senator Lidia Thorpe*

By email: [senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au)