

Council Member

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor
Martin

Contact Officer:

Iliia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

Public

MOTION ON NOTICE

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

‘That Council;

Consistent with successive Council terms at the City of Adelaide’s in our strong support for reconciliation, agrees to recommend to all residents of the City a “yes” vote at the referendum to be held later this year to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice and asks the Administration to;

1. Develop a page on Council’s website setting out the resolution of Council supporting the “yes” vote, together with information about the referendum including, when available, locations at which votes can be cast in our local government area, and
2. Arrange for official Australian Government publications related to the referendum to be accessed with an online link or, in the case of printed material, through the Colonel Light Centre, Council libraries and Community Centres.’

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. The [State Government](#) and Federal Government have committed to establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament and are running parallel but separate processes to fulfill these commitments.
2. State Government’s *First Nations Voice Bill 2023* was introduced to Parliament on Thursday 9 February 2023 and was introduced into the lower house on 7 March 2023. A Special Parliamentary Sitting and State Ceremony was held on Sunday 26 March 2023 to acknowledge the *First Nations Voice Bill 2023*.
3. The Federal Government introduced the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022* to Parliament on 1 December 2022. The Bill will make amendments to ensure the referendum voting process and experience is similar to that of a Federal election. The Bill will be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, which will report in 2023.
4. To date, the City of Adelaide has not adopted a formal position on the First Nations Voice to Parliament and has considered the vote on the Federal Referendum as a decision for an individual.
5. On 3 May 2022, the First Nations Voice to Parliament was considered by the City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee (Agenda Item 5.3). The Committee spoke and resolved in support of the approach and motion proposed by Council and specifically recommended that Council:
 1. *Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament at State and Federal Government levels.*
 2. *Authorises the Lord Mayor to write to the State Government and Commonwealth Government on behalf of Council requesting that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposals as they evolve.*

6. The First Nations Voice to Parliament was also considered at the Local Government Association Ordinary General Meeting on 14 April 2023 (Item 9.1). The LGA has not adopted a policy position on the Voice but endorsed the following:

9.1 First Nations Voice to Parliament (LGA Secretariat)

Moved West Torrens Seconded Charles Sturt that the Ordinary General Meeting:

- 1. requests that the LGA advocates that the Australian Government:*
 - a. provides sufficient public funding for an effective information campaign to raise awareness of the national referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament;*
 - b. allocates sufficient resources to cover the costs of any local forums facilitated by the Australian Government to support the national referendum process; and*
 - c. in the event the national referendum is successful, ensures that any local government involvement in the establishment of Local and Regional Voices – as part of the governance structure of the Voice to Parliament – is fully funded by the Australian Government.*
 - 2. notes that the LGA does not have a policy position on the proposal for a First Nations Voice to Parliament and that councils may choose to adopt their own positions.*
7. If this motion is adopted, Administration will develop a City of Adelaide webpage supporting the “yes” vote for the First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Federal Referendum that provides information about how to vote and links to external resources; and will provide relevant hard copy materials in Council venues.
8. Administration will maintain contact with the Australian Electoral Commission to access its resources to support the community to access information about the Federal Referendum.

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| Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained: | |
| Public consultation | City of Adelaide will make available to the community information about the First Nations Voice to Parliament and the Federal Referendum. |
| External consultant advice | Not applicable |
| Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach) | Not applicable |
| Impacts on existing projects | Not applicable |
| Budget reallocation | Not applicable |
| Capital investment | Not applicable |
| Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion | Not applicable |
| Other | Not applicable |
| Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment | 5.5 hours |