

Walkout Statement released 6 July 2017

Aboriginal Embassy Statement from the Sacred Fire

WALKOUT STATEMENT

Opposing Constitutional Recognition and Manufactured Consent

Statement read by Les Coe (Wiradjuri), Nioka Coe (Wiradjuri) and Ruth Gilbert (Wiradjuri).

at the Sacred Fire, Aboriginal Embassy Canberra, on 6.7.2017

SEE ATTACHED PDF FOR IMAGE: [Photo credit: John Janson-Moore]

We, the First Nations People who gathered at the Sacred Fire of the Aboriginal Embassy on 24-25 June 2017, reject the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' and its Guiding Principles.

The 'Uluru Statement' is a reflection of the corrupt proceedings of the Referendum Council's Regional Dialogues and the National Constitutional Convention, held at the Ayers Rock Resort near Uluru, Northern Territory, from 23-26 May 2017.

We assert that all First Nations have retained Law, language, land, culture, governance and the ability to enter into international relations on this island continent now known as Australia. Our Law continues to be the continental common law of the land. We live under the duress of a cold war of attrition and continuing genocide perpetrated by the Commonwealth of Australia, governing in right of the Crown of the United Kingdom.

We oppose the power of the British colonial Commonwealth of Australia who continues to illegally occupy our lands, territories, waters and airways.

We are aware that the United Nations understands Australia's illegal status as a UN Member State and has instructed the Australian Government to decolonise from Britain. However, our First Nations pre-existing and continuing sovereignty is blocking them, as confirmed in 2010 by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). CERD advised the Australian government of the need to reset its relationship with First Nations by way of Treaty/ies.

We assert that the Commonwealth, State and Territory Constitutions do not have a constitutional head of power to pass any laws which affect, impact, or diminish the continental Sovereignty of First Nations and Peoples. This is the reason why the Commonwealth, via the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Referendum Council, is so intent to coerce our people and manufacture consent for the colonial power to govern First Nations Peoples in right of the Crown of the United Kingdom.

The great First Nations chant of 'Sovereignty Never Ceded' is being challenged and betrayed by treasonous agents of the coloniser. It is being orchestrated behind the scenes by puppeteers, including but not limited to, the Co-Chair of the Referendum Council, Mark Leibler, who supports military occupation.

We are not Australian citizens. We are outside of the Australian constitution as 'aliens' to its governance. At present, the Commonwealth Government of Australia allegedly acquired the right, by way of the 1967 constitutional referendum, to pass 'special measure' laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as an *alien race*, outside of the Australian citizenry, by evoking the race power of Section 51 Subsection 26.

We demand that the Commonwealth government desist from its deceitful intent to usurp our sovereignty through a war of stealth, by resetting the invaders' relationship with Sovereign First Nations, without identifying the terms of its agenda. This is both immoral and unethical. It is indeed an act of war, being publicly spun as a 'well overdue obligation' on the part of the invader state to incorporate the invaded Sovereign First Nations' inhabitants into Australia's colonial Constitution.

In this way, the Commonwealth will create a specific head of power to pass laws with respect to Sovereign First Nations and assimilate our people into the invader's constitution by the acquiescence and/or surrender of our inherent sovereign rights, which clears the pathway for Australia to decolonise from the Crown of the United Kingdom.

Only one pathway for the referendum was argued by the National Constitutional Convention: that of First Nations' inclusion in the Constitution. All other options were gagged. Wrong way legal advice was endorsed by the Referendum Council to fool our people into believing that inclusion into the constitution would not impact on our inherent pre-existing Sovereign rights. Also, to have a 'Voice' and a 'national advisory organisation' does not require a referendum.

No genuine mandate to make decisions on behalf of First Nations belonged to the majority of participants at the National Constitutional Convention. The 12 Regional Dialogues were closed invitation-only meetings, from which 10 ‘delegates’ were ‘elected’ to make up 60% of the ‘delegates’ at the Convention. Once the Referendum Council and its organisers, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies (AIATSIS), realised they had lost the numbers for constitutional inclusion, an executive decision was made by the powers that be to stack the National Constitutional Convention with their paid staff and facilitators, whom they called ‘delegates’. This created a major conflict of interest.

Additionally, 20% of the participants at the Convention came from organisations, which had already been held to ransom to promote the agenda of the Recognise campaign and the Referendum Council in order to continue receiving government funding. A further 20% were individuals selected by government as ‘delegates’.

The Referendum Council refused all recording of the National Constitution Convention to maintain the veil of secrecy, in order to protect Point 10 of the [Guiding Principles](#) to the ‘Uluru Statement’, which states: *‘Does not interfere with current and future legal arrangements.’* In this sentence, the treasonous compromise to maintain the status quo is spelt out clearly.

The proposed Makarrata agreement-making is about domestic contracts, which will keep First Nations under a colonial constitution’s head of power. The deep meaning of Makarrata is misunderstood as it is a complex and high-level ceremony, which can result in the death of the guilty party and/or blood-letting, and is designed to restore social harmony once the wrong has been dealt with. In the 1980s the Makarrata terminology was strongly rejected by Central Desert communities during the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) Treaty consultation process.

We support the demand for ‘Truth Before Treaty/Treaties’ in a Truth and Justice process, which exposes the crimes perpetrated by the past and ongoing genocide and gross violations of Human Rights of First Nations Peoples in Australia. This will confirm the British and Australians have, and are, benefitting from the proceeds of horrendous crimes against the innocent.

We are developing agreements between families and clans, which lead to Sovereign Treaties between First Nations that are independent from the illegal occupying colonial power ruling in right of the Crown of the United Kingdom.

Turning the 'Aboriginal Embassy into stone' is the worst form of appropriation of the spearhead of the Sovereignty Movement. The Aboriginal Embassy maintains the resistance to the invading power.

We call on all Sovereign First Nations Peoples across the Country to engage with the mainstream public to establish a national process, which culminates in the rewriting of a new and modern constitution for a Republic. This must be underpinned by First Nations Sovereignty of the ancient continental common Law established by Tjurkurpa, Goomarra, also known as the Law of Natural Creation.

We Respect the Rights of Mother Earth as fundamentally integral to the wellbeing of humanity.

Statement was prepared at the Sacred Fire, Aboriginal Embassy, Canberra, by the Walkout Collective – the First Nations representatives who walked out from the National Constitutional Convention in protest on 24 May 2017, and participants of the First Nations Rise Up meeting held at the Aboriginal Embassy on 24-25 June 2017.