



## MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **KLC Welcomes Next Steps Towards Voice Referendum**

#### **Statement from KLC CEO Tyronne Garstone:**

Today, Australia is one step closer to a significant and unifying moment in the nation's history.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced this morning that the Government had reached an agreement on the proposed constitutional amendment for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice.

We have clarity on what the Australian people will decide on in this year's referendum. The words for the constitutional recognition reflect what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the country and here in the Kimberley have been asking for. The KLC has been involved in this process from the beginning.

In 2017 KLC hosted one of the first Regional Dialogues in Broome as a part of the Referendum Council's First Nations Constitutional dialogues. Later that year KLC Directors and Kimberley Traditional Owners attended the national convention for the Statement for the Heart at Uluru.

Today's outcome has been the result of a long and thorough engagement process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from around the country and should be celebrated.

Recognising an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament is a monumental opportunity for all Australians.

It's an opportunity for Australians to draw a line in the sand and change the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people because the system we have is failing.

When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are given a voice over matters that affect our communities, true change will begin.

I put my trust in the Australian people that when the time comes, they will vote YES and by the end of this year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be recognised in the constitution and have a Voice.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all the people who have helped progress the referendum to this point, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, Senator Patrick Dodson, and the other members of the referendum engagement working group.

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