

# THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART IN LATIN

Nos ad Conventum de Constitutione Reipublicae anno MMXVII huc convocati, exque omnibus partibus caeli australis orti et progredientes, adfirmationem hanc imo e corde fundimus:

Aborigines huius loci necnon incolae insularum freti Torresii a principio imperium terrae legumque potestatem secundum morem maiorum habebant.

Avi proavique hanc terram ex consuetudine rationeque nostra usque 'a mundo condito' tenebant; secundum ius vulgo commune, 'ab aevo antiquissimo'; secundum philosophiam denique naturalem, per amplius sexaginta milia annorum spatium. Significatio dicionis nostrae est sacra, id est conjunctio inter terram, seu potius 'magnam matrem', et gentes indigenas huius terrae insularumque freti Torresii, qui ex illa nati, illius amore devincti, ad illam cuncti olim redituri, una cum maioribus nostris semper erimus. Conjunctio sive cognatio haec est origo ratioque possessionis nostri soli, immo vero dicionis. Hanc numquam, nusquam, neminive cessimus, neque exstincta est ab aliis, sed cum imperio Britannico simul exstat.

Quomodo aliter esse potest? Gentes has terras usque LX milia annorum incolentes, catena illa sacra rupta, statim evanuerint videlicet ex orbis terrarum memoria ducentis tantummodo annis? Quin contra, priscum illud imperium, legibus rite mutatis, re publica radicitus renovata, non solum rursus florere censemus sed etiam foederationem illam universam Australiensem illuminare amplificareque posse!

Eheu, pro populi portione nostrates magis quam quaelibet alibi gens per orbem terrarum in carcere languescunt! Ingenium nobis haud pravum est. Attamen liberi rapti, numeroque hactenus inaudito, animis alienatis etiamnum a familiis seiunguntur. Causa sane non est quod nostro amore carent. Juventus dilectissima, cui spes nostra tota inest, foeda creberrima in captivitate iacet. Magnitudo discriminis plane matricem vel potius machinam angustiarum nostrarum ostendit. Hac impotentia cruciamur!

Petimus leges renovatas quae gentes nostras corroborent ut sedem legitimam sua quaque in patria assumant. Cum primum sortis arbitrium restitutum nobis fuerit, florebunt et liberi. Incedent geminis mundorum viis et cultura eorum animi erit dono reipublicae.

Postulamus itaque Vocem Gentium Priscarum in Constitutione Reipublicae consecratam. Culmen quo enitimur est Makarrata: 'conventus post certamen'.

Significat nos adfectare necessitudinem et iustam et sinceram cum terrae Australiensis populo, necnon spem vitae natorum melioris, dum redeat Astraera iuraque nobis aequae quibuscumque dispertiat. Petimus item Commissionem Makarratensem ad foedera inter civitates Australiensium et Gentes Priscas faciendam et ad veritatem de rebus in his terris gestis recte petendam.

Anno MCMLXVII censebamur. Anno MMXVII tandem audiamur! Stativa nunc deserimus; coepimus per immensa huius terrae spatia nostrum iter facere. Vosque suademus, concives Australienses, ut pedibus nobiscum ad meliora capessenda prodeatis.



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# THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

## IN ENGLISH

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness*.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



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