



**AUSTRALIAN
LIVE
MUSIC
BUSINESS
COUNCIL**

PRESS RELEASE Tuesday September 5th 2023

ALMBC Support the YES Campaign for the Voice

The Board of the Australian Live Music Business Council (ALMBC), the nation's peak live music business council, has announced it supports the Voice to Parliament as a fundamental pillar of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

After consideration and discussion with our First Nations members and the Community, the ALMBC Board of Directors proudly stands together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in support of the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Voice that acknowledges the First Nations people of this country we live in.

The ALMBC is a national business council representing concert and festival promoters, event presenters, venues, booking agents, artists, DJ's, technical crew, show crew, show labour, venue staff, ticketing companies, merchandise companies, catering companies, venue workers... indeed anyone whose primary vocation is in the live music sector. The board comprises people from around the country, cross-sector, evenly split on gender and with dedicated First Nations Board Members (currently from Wamba Wamba / Dhuhoroa and Yalanji Nations).

ALMBC Chair, Stephen Wade, said: "We at the ALMBC support the Uluru Statement from the Heart which calls for the Establishment of a First Nations Voice to Parliament, enshrined in the Constitution. On that basis, we will formally be supporting the YES vote in the upcoming referendum"

The ALMBC notes that the live music industry in this country also needs to be better and listen more to First Nations people both as custodians, music lovers and as industry workers and businesses.

"As locally owned businesses in the live music industry, we have an obligation to know more about what country we operate in, who the custodians are, what languages they speak and what has happened historically where we live and work. We believe there is nothing to lose and much more to gain as a country, in our communities, and among our people by voting YES".

We need to bring that conversation to the front of our interactions with our First Nations colleagues and communities so the process of truth-telling can commence and we can all contribute to a shared understanding, vision and partnership of what we want our future to look like. We see The Voice as integral to how we want Australia to be moving forward".

We urge our members as they are sitting in live music venues, at concerts and festivals around the country, while waiting for the show to start, to stay informed and to have conversations with colleagues about what kind of country we want to live in. We are holding hands with the community of everyday homegrown music businesses who wish to bring people together, make people's lives better, empower truth, treaty and to bring this nation's unique identity to the forefront of our shared culture. By providing our support for the YES campaign we want to demonstrate the role the live music industry can play in bringing together the broader public to consider why a YES is going to be good for everyone.



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Australian Live Music Business Council to Support the First Nations Voice to Parliament

The Australian Live Music Business Council accepts the invitation of the majority of First Nations people to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and create a future for all Australian people and one that will provide better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, their children and their communities.

We support the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice enshrined in the Constitution so that First Nations people and communities are heard by Parliament and the Government.

As the key organisation representing homegrown businesses operating in the live music industry across the country, we represent over 600 businesses nationally, across 28 different sectors and reach over 30,000 workers in the music industry. The Australian Live Music Business Council is committed to ensuring it remains part of the solution and not the problem.

While we acknowledge the diversity of views in relation to the Voice referendum, including our First Nations members and the broader First Nations Community, as an organisation we see the opportunity for more positive outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through a successful Voice referendum. We also acknowledge that this is the view held by the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We recognise, respect and celebrate one of the world's oldest continuing holders of song and the cultural distinctions of First Nations people and value their rich and positive contribution to the music industry and more broadly Australian society.

The ALMBC acknowledges the significant traumatic impact on First Nations Australians that has occurred since colonisation and continues to this day. Taking that into consideration, we also acknowledge the impact the referendum is having on all members of First Nations communities. If you are feeling impacted and require support, please contact the [First Nations Support Line](#) provided by [Support Act](#). This is a **free, culturally safe, confidential service** specifically for First Nations people to provide help with their mental health and well-being, available to access any time (24/7 365 days) by calling **1800 959 500 (option 3)**. We would also like to remind people to be respectful and kind in their conversations with all members of the community.

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