



**MEDIA RELEASE: THURSDAY, 7 MARCH, 2019**

**COUNCIL SUPPORTS ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART**

Strathbogie Shire Council has recently thrown its support behind the Violet Town and District Recognise Group to promote and support the Uluru Statement from the Heart movement and the process for Aboriginal recognition in the Constitution.

Council endorsed six recommendations at a recent Ordinary Council Meeting that supported the sentiments contained in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the process for Aboriginal recognition and reform of the Constitution and a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice to Federal Parliament.

Council has also resolved to advocate on behalf of its community to promote the need for these processes to provide the Aboriginal community the opportunity to be heard and have discussions about what recognition means for them.

Honeysuckle Creek Ward Councillor Kate Stothers played an instrumental role in pushing for Council to support the initiatives of the Violet Town Recognise Group and said Council has a role to play in advocating on behalf of its community on issues that are important to them.

“The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a powerful piece of work outlining the dispossession and disparity experienced by our First Nations People, but encouragingly, and generously, opens the door for all of us to walk with them on a journey forward,” Cr Stothers said.

“It was gathered through a large collaborative process of Aboriginal people who came together at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, so this statement was the consensus-building outcome from a wide range of communities across Australia.”

Taungurung Lands and Water Council Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Burns said he welcomes Strathbogie Shire Council's decision to support sentiments in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

“This decision shows great leadership which we hope will pave the way for other local municipalities to follow Strathbogie's lead,” Mr Burns said.

“We are proud to have such a forward thinking local municipality within Taungurung Country.”

Council will be putting forward a recommendation to the State Council of the Municipal Association of Victoria in May 2019 to bring the importance of the Uluru Statement of the Heart to the attention of the state-wide local government sector.

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