

Australian Marine Sciences Association supports the Uluru Statement and a Voice to Parliament

The Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) recognises that Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders are the traditional custodians of the land and seas of Australia. AMSA affirms their support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We willingly accept the invitation of First Nations people to join a 'movement of the Australian people' to create a better future for all.

We recognise the ongoing dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have never ceded sovereignty over their territories, including Sea Country. Affirming the Uluru Statement from the Heart evidences AMSA's commitment to reform, and reflects AMSA's devotion to a values-led marine science community. This is illustrated by AMSA's commitment to an open, diverse, honest, fair and equitable marine science community. We are working to address fundamental issues in marine science such as the under representation of indigenous researchers, the lack of genuine collaboration for work on sea country, impediments to inclusion of TO priorities and opinions in marine management, and widespread ignorance of the value and wealth of traditional knowledge available.

In adopting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we support a referendum to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. A constitutionally enshrined Voice is the first legal step. Voice recognises First Nations as self-determining peoples. It provides a secure institutional mechanism for establishing the framework for treaty and truth telling set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

AMSA recognises the role of respectful disagreements, diverse opinions, discussion and debate in the consolidation of knowledge and as essential steps in a healthy scientific process. As part of the science community, we respect the rights of colleagues and community members to hold diverse opinions, including those that differ from the perspective put forth in this statement.