



## **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 our commitment to reform, and reflects our commitment to a values-led marine science community.

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 members of the science community, we respect the rights of colleagues and community members to hold diverse opinions.