

Joint Statement on the Anthem Plebiscite

On the 11th of May 2020, the Australian Bureau of Statistics announced the results of the anthem plebiscite as called under the [National Anthem Plebiscite Bill 2020](#), with *I Am Australian* winning 54.11% of the vote, alongside a majority in every area except Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. Whilst a simple majority is only required on the matter of plebiscites, this constitutes a rare double majority result, delegitimising in any way shape or form any excuse to keep the anthem as *Advance Australia Fair*. The actions taken by the Australian Government today to create a Frankenstein's monster song and designate it as the national anthem is nothing short of a betrayal of those on all sides who expected the government to behave properly and respect the result whichever way it fell. It falls most ironic that the government would choose to bypass democracy in the same way that the Drunk_King_Robert government did so when they designated *Waltzing Matilda* as the national anthem, rightfully earning bi-partisan condemnation.

Due to this betrayal of the public trust, we the undersigned say the following:

- 1) The Government's decision to bypass the plebiscite, voters and the Cabinet is undemocratic and unacceptable, and condemn them for such.
- 2) The Government should apologise for betraying the trust of the Australian people, and change the National Anthem to *I am Australian* as soon as possible.
- 3) If the government continues to refuse to do so, the Opposition should take action immediately to resolve this issue and instate *I Am Australian* as the National Anthem, as per the results of the plebiscite.
- 4) All parliamentarians should support legislation which is soon to be introduced to change the national anthem officially to *I am Australian*.

Signatories to this letter

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