

Petition to the Parliament of Australia

Sovereignty Never Ceded. Stop The War. Treaty before Parliamentary Voice. Treaty is the embodiment of Aboriginal self-determination. Treaty provides a path to negotiate the transfer of power and resources for First Peoples to control matters which impact their lives.

WHAT IS SOVEREIGNTY?

The state of being a country with freedom to govern itself. At no point in time was sovereignty ever ceded to the British Crown. No custodian ceded their Nations' sovereignty. Oxford Reference 'Sovereignty': "Supreme authority in a state. In any state sovereignty is vested in the institution, person, or body having the ultimate authority to impose law on everyone else in the state and the power to alter any pre-existing law. How and by whom the authority is exercised varies according to the political nature of the state. In many countries the executive, legislative, and judicial powers of sovereignty are exercised by different bodies".

Treaty before Voice ensures First Nations Peoples self-determined governance (which have been relied upon for the past 160,000+ years of indigenous custodianship of this land and its over 500 Nations).

WHAT IS TREATY?

Treaty is the embodiment of indigenous First Nations self-determination. Treaty provides a path to negotiate the transfer of power and resources for First Peoples to control matters which impact their lives, their country and their future. Treaty is also an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the unique status, rights, cultures and histories of First Peoples. Treaty rights internationally: The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights states at Article 37 (points 1 and 2) that;

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of Treaties, Agreements and Other Constructive Arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements. 2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as to diminish or eliminate the rights of Indigenous Peoples contained in Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements.

WHY TREATY?

A Treaty promises to protect First Nations culture and the right of First Nations to continue to live in Australia as First Nations. At the same time, a Treaty means the Crown must govern Australia and represent the interest of all peoples of this land. Bob Hawke's Barunga Statement called on the Australian government to recognise the rights of Aboriginal land owners and to formalise a treaty with them. It was modelled on the 1963 Yirrkala Petition First Nations people demand the right to self-determine the models by which they are heard and represented in the Australian parliaments and/or governments. Without Treaty, it means Australia can continue to govern without ever acknowledging the existence of First Nations Peoples. First Nations Peoples were set aside as a "dying race" which would never survive 'white settlement' (Creative Spirits. What is a Treaty? Why is it necessary?), hence never allowing the Treaty/Treaties and deliberately establishing 'Australia'. To ignore First Nations is, was and continues to be, deliberate Commonwealth policy. Beyond the establishment of Treaties (negotiations sovereign to sovereign), First Nations' will then determine whether or not each Nation chooses to cede its sovereignty to the Crown or maintain partnerships between sovereign nations, under the establishment of a Voice/Voices to Parliament.

THE DELIBERATE CONSEQUENCES OF A VOICE BEFORE TREATY:

Treaty has never been negotiated in Australia. Westminster law (which is the basis of commonwealth federal law) implements certain clauses to maintain treaty negligence. This ensures First Nations Peoples' self-determination can never happen and sovereignty is ceded to the Crown.

The absence of Treaty means the ongoing denial of First Nations existence, prior occupation and the genocidal dispossession of First National peoples and country.

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Person/s lodging this petition: