# Meeting of the First Nations Consultative Committee

## Brisbane – 31 January to 1 February 2023

### Communique

The First Nations Consultative Committee met in Brisbane on 31 January and 1 February 2023 to continue their important work on Indigenous Voice reforms. At the meeting, the Committee acknowledged Mr Terry O’Shane (Co-Chair) was an apology for the meeting due to illness and members expressed their hopes for a full recovery. The Committee also congratulated Mr Joshua Gorringe who was awarded the Australia Day Cultural Award on 26 January 2023 by the Barcoo Shire Council. The Committee has met five times since their establishment with the most recent meeting focused on exploring other jurisdictions’ Indigenous Voice models and considering them in a Queensland context.

**South Australian Voice to Parliament approach**

The meeting built on the Committee’s previous work to further develop the core elements for a Voice model for Queensland. Members began by exploring the approach of the South Australian Government, which has developed draft legislation for an Indigenous Voice in that jurisdiction. The Committee discussed the draft legislation developed by South Australia and how it could be applied in a Queensland context. The first Nations Voice Bill 2023 was introduced to Parliament on Thursday 9 February 2023. The Bill proposes a connected, direct and independent line of communication for First Nations people to South Australia's Parliament and the government, to allow important, shared communication by locally elected regional members.

South Australia’s draft Bill will provide insights into the development of a state-based voice model and members discussed whether elements of the South Australia legislation should be adopted and adapted for Queensland. The inclusion of incorporating existing local structures such as local decision-making bodies was discussed as critical to ensure local First Nations voices are included in the establishment of a Voice for Queensland. Core elements of a Voice model discussed by the Committee included the importance of independence from the Crown; Voice must be able to address Parliament and Government on issues that affect First Nations Peoples; and key principles for Voice legislation including self-determination and accountability of government.

**First Nations Consultative Committee and Implementation and Communication Plan**

Community consultations about Indigenous Voice are occurring in the representative regions that is continuing to build positive momentum for this historic conversation in Queensland. Implementation and Communication Plans outline engagement activities to engage with community through a series of design yarns aimed at a range of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.

**Next steps**

The First Nations Consultative Committee discussed the next steps to progress their work including finalising design materials to support targeted engagement on the proposed Voice model(s) for an Indigenous Voice in Queensland. The next meeting of the First Nations Consultative Committee will be a virtual meeting online and is scheduled for 9 March 2023.