



engineers
without borders
australia

Over 60,000 years of engineering in Australia.

Referendum Question

The question to be put to the Australian people at the 2023 referendum will be:

“A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?”

Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB Australia) recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first engineers and scientists of this nation and engineering a better world starts with YES to the Voice.

EWB Australia’s vision for a healed country is that through Voice, Treaty and Truth we can achieve reconciliation. We believe that through our projects and co-design approach with communities we can have a positive impact on the way Engineering is conducted in Australia. We do this by listening and giving communities a voice in the decisions that affect them.

EWB acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the need for constitutional recognition, which is not just symbolic but provides the opportunity to make meaningful change in their lives. We are grateful for the relationships we have with communities across Australia and we will continue to forge new relationships with communities to heal Country and create a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This referendum is a critical opportunity for the truth of First Nations people living and engineering in Australia for 60,000 years, to be recognised in Australia's constitution and given a Voice in decisions that affect them.

We recognise the importance and complexity of the matter of having a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament, as called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and that the views of the communities we work with are not homogenous, nor do we wish them to be so. In the months leading up to the Referendum we acknowledge that significant pressure can be felt by First Nations people and we are committed to providing an environment which is open to knowledge sharing through conversation and contemplation.

EWB Australia will enable all staff, our volunteer networks and our partners to make an informed decision in the referendum.