

Email Submission from: Stefan Caramia

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Kaya,

Firstly, I'd agree with input from other colleagues I've been in discussion with that no matter what the ultimate strategy, regular experiential training for public servants and policy/decision-makers to actually understand and achieve the outcomes in an every-day manner will be paramount to achieving any public sector wins – particularly in the engagement area, but also in consultation when talking about greenfield developments and especially in reference to the Swan River and other Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (waters and lands). This will also assist in the slow process of culture change, understanding and respect.

Furthermore, the Discussion Paper itself makes reference to the plethora of reports, reviews and strategies undertaken in the past which I believe underlines the fact that strategies and reports – although well-meaning – don't necessarily achieve the outcomes they set for themselves because they are often talking down to our First Nations peoples and telling them what to do, or what the State will do, without necessarily listening to their responses and needs.

The obvious outlier to this is the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) which was created and delivered to the **Australian people** in 2017 by the Referendum Council, originally set up by the Commonwealth to inform the government of their needs and requirements – which they did: "Voice. Treaty. Truth"

Although the Statement from the Heart has a focus on constitutional change (something not plausible at a State level of course), there are in fact three elements:

1. Constitutional change
2. Legislative change
3. Makarrata Commission

I would posit that these last 2 elements can be considered in the strategy at a WA state level.

If the strategy had a strong focus on consulting with the traditional land owners and other First Nations peoples in order to establish a Makarrata Commission (to supervise a process of agreement making with governments, and oversee a process of truth-telling about the State's history), I believe this would have a lasting impact on the wellbeing of our First Nations people and make a huge impact in meeting the goals laid out in the strategy.

I understand that this is a big idea and more in the realm of politicians than public servants, however with the Hon Ben Wyatt recently announcing his retirement from State politics, the State Government may be receptive to ideas like these at this time.



**Aboriginal advocacy reports included:**

- Crocodile Hole Report (1991) Kimberley Land Council and Waringarri Resource Centre
- A New Dreaming: Noongar Dialogue 24-25 February 2010 (2010) South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
- Final report of the Indigenous Implementation Board (2011) Indigenous Implementation Board (WA)
- WAAAC 2014 Summit Final Report (2015) Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council
- Redfern Statement (2016) National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and 17 other Indigenous Peak Bodies
- Cultural Solutions: Shared Pathways for Engagement in the Kimberley (2017)
- **Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017)**
- Martu Leadership Program (2017) Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and SVA Consulting
- Pilbara Aboriginal Voice (Kakurka Muri) Meeting Outcomes Report (2018) Pilbara Aboriginal Voice
- Change in wellbeing indicators of Pilbara Aboriginal people: 2001-2016 (2018) John Taylor
- Kimberley Aboriginal Caring for Culture Plan (2019) Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre

**Engagement meetings included:**

- Yule River Meeting (2018, 2019)
- Kimberley combined AGM (2017, 2018)
- National Native Title Conference (2018)
- North-West Aboriginal Women's Leadership Conference (2018)
- Desert PBC Alliance (2018)
- South West forum on accountability and advocacy in Aboriginal affairs (2018)
- Commissioner for Children and Young People - Aboriginal Forum (2018)
- WA Closing the Gap Partnership Design Forum (2019)
- East Kimberley workshop on pooled funding for Aboriginal development (2019)

**Official reports and reviews included:**

- Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991)
- Bringing Them Home (1997) Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- Western Australian Parliament's Apology to the Stolen Generations (1997)
- Gordon Report - Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (2002)
- Law Reform Commission of Western Australia's report on Aboriginal Customary Laws (2006)
- Casey Review (2007) Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Australian Parliament's Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples (2008)
- Hope Report into the suicides of Kimberley people (2008)
- Holman Review: A Promising Future: WA Aboriginal Health Progress (2014) Department of Health
- Empowered Communities: Design Report (2015)
- Learnings from the Message Stick (2016) Education and Health Standing Committee
- Bringing Them Home: 20 Years On (2017) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017)
- Commonwealth Department of Health's My Life My Lead: Report on the national consultations (2017)
- Report on outcomes for Stolen Generations and descendants (2018) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Sustainable Health Review (2019)
- Coronial Inquest into the suicides of young Kimberley people (2019)

**Examples of place-based approaches**

- Roebourne 6718 Advantage and West Pilbara Plan
- Dampier Peninsula Family Empowerment Partnership
- South West Native Title Settlement and others currently under negotiation
- Family law services and driver licencing in Martu country
- Empowered Communities in East Kimberley, West Kimberley and Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
- Murdi Paaki regional assembly and Bourke Justice Reinvestment in NSW

Thank you kindly for your time and should you require any further information from me or wish to get in touch, please of course feel free to contact me directly via the details below.

Kind regards,

**Stefan Caramia**