

MEDIA RELEASE



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ANTaR stands with Anangu in decision to ban tourists from climbing Uluru

National advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights ANTaR, today expressed strong support for the Anangu and the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park board in their decision to ban people from climbing their sacred site, Uluru, from 2019.

National Director Andrew Meehan said the decision to ban climbing on Uluru from October 2019 showed extraordinary patience on the part of the Anangu and was completely justified.

“The Anangu have been asking people not to climb Uluru since the 1985 handback and signs requesting people don’t climb have been in place at the base of the climb area since the early 90s.”

“It is absolutely their right to put a halt to people climbing their sacred site on their land,” he said.

Mr Meehan added that it was completely disrespectful and unacceptable that people continued to climb Uluru despite the signs being in place.

“It’s hard to fathom that people could have an issue with this ban after 30 years of patience.”

“The broader community wouldn’t accept people abseiling down the side of St Mary’s cathedral in Sydney or walking over the top of the altar for a photo opportunity, why is it any different for Traditional Owners,” he said.

Mr Meehan said that the Anangu should never have been pressured into keeping the Uluru climb open, and called on government and the broader community to show their support for the decision, and applaud the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park for their patience and goodwill.

ANTaR is the only non-Indigenous organisation dedicated solely to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working to educate the wider community, shape public opinion, and speak up for justice, rights and respect for Australia’s First Peoples. ANTaR supported the development and launch of the Redfern Statement.