ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign nations of the Australian continent and its islands, and possessed 6,000 years of continuous culture, according to the indigenous peoples of this land. We honour and respect our elders and the sacred ancestors who came to this land before us. Our knowledge continues to be shared, and according to science, more than 66,000 years ago of our history.

This sovereignty is a spiritual bond, the connection to the ancestors who taught us how to live and the land and whose blood is always present in our communities. This is the basis of the ownership of the soil, the connection to the land. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and no title exists for the ownership of the Crown.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived on this land for tens of thousands of years, and this sacred link disappears from world history in the last hundred years. With this connection to the spiritual traditions, we seek a new chapter in our story, a new chapter in human history.

We ask the Australian people to engage in a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations, and we seek a national recognition for the rights and entitlements of First Nations, including a voice to parliament. In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave from camp and start our walk across this land. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.