



Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung

Cultural Heritage
Aboriginal Corporation

WURUNDJERI ELDERS SUPPORT VOICE TO PARLIAMENT YES VOTE

Elders at the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have taken a formal position on the Voice to Parliament to actively support the YES vote.

The decision, made by Wurundjeri Board of Directors, comes after months of careful consideration and community consultations, including two face-to-face meetings with the Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Deputy Chair Uncle Andrew Gardiner said the decision was not taken lightly, acknowledging the many views across the Wurundjeri community.

“We support a YES vote, and we want constitutional change that recognises us as first peoples,” Uncle Andrew said.

“Ultimately the Elders at Wurundjeri want a say in the matters that impact our community, those decisions made by the government that effect Country, our Culture, and our families.

“We want to be part of a representative group that goes to Canberra and says that this is what our needs are, and we want to push for those needs.”

The Wurundjeri community has a long history of post-colonial political engagement.

Esteemed Wurundjeri Ancestors Simon Wonga, William Barak, Bebejan, Billibellary, and Ningulabul were all well-known and active participants in the political scene as Melbourne was being built around them.

“Not only was our culture passed down from our Ancestors but so was our fighting spirit, our negotiation, diplomacy, and above all, our fundamental regard for our people, our Country, and our way of life,” Uncle Andrew said.

“Now we call on those living on Wurundjeri Country, the many people living in the greater Melbourne area, to vote YES in this referendum.

“Give us your vote, give us a voice and a say in how our lives are governed. It’s time we’re recognised. It’s time for constitutional change.”

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation was established in 1985 by Wurundjeri Elders. As a representative body for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of Melbourne, and the Greater Melbourne region, it is the oldest and longest running Traditional Owner organisation in Victoria.