

24 February 2023

The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: linda.burney.mp@aph.gov.au

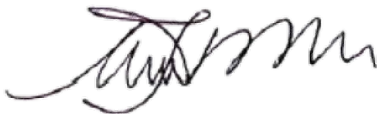
Dear Minister

Community and stakeholder engagement organisation IAP2 Australasia is writing to request the opportunity to meet with you or your office regarding the upcoming Voice referendum campaign.

As the peak body for the community and stakeholder engagement sector in Australia, IAP2 believes that engagement, when done well, improves social, environmental, cultural, and economic outcomes and increases trust in the democratic process. IAP2 Australasia is excited to learn more about the upcoming referendum on a constitutionally-enshrined Voice to Parliament, and for the chance for the community to meaningfully engage in decisions regarding the Voice.

IAP2 would value the opportunity to discuss plans for community engagement by government ahead of the campaign for a referendum. We would especially value the opportunity to meet with the Minister and her office to discuss how engagement for the referendum campaign could be informed by IAP2's Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

Kind regards



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About IAP2 Australasia

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is the leading public participation organisation globally which seeks to promote and improve the practice of community and stakeholder engagement.

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed tools that are widely used and acknowledged. These include:

- **IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation** - for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes.
- **IAP2 Spectrum** - which assists with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement program. The Spectrum is widely used and is quoted in most community engagement manuals.
- **Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement** - which is recognised as the international standard for public participation practice.

IAP2 Australasia has almost 13,000 members throughout Australia and New Zealand – and is committed to championing engagement that improves environmental, social and governance outcomes. Our vision is for “Authentic engagement, everyday”.

Policy Position:

As the peak body for the community and stakeholder engagement sector, IAP2 Australasia believes that engagement, when done well, improves social, environmental, and economic outcomes and increases trust in the democratic process.

We advocate for all communities to be authentically engaged in decisions that affect them, in alignment with the IAP2 Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

The Evidence for Authentic Engagement

There is significant evidence to support the need for increased authentic engagement to reduce risk and speed up the delivery of projects to support Australia's economic recovery. These include:

- Community opposition has contributed to the delay, cancellation or mothballing of more than \$20B of infrastructure projects in the last decade.
Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019
- Better functioning cities and towns could deliver a \$29B increase in GDP in the long term.
Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019
- 80% of Australians indicate it is important that government considers the views of the community when planning or investing in major infrastructure.
Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019
- 82% of businesses said “communicating and engaging with stakeholders openly was seen as the most critical factor for building trust”.
Source: Creating value and balancing stakeholder needs (KPMG and AICD survey – 2019)
- Securing a social license to operate reduces the No. 1 ranked stakeholder risk.
Source: Top 10 Business Risks and Opportunities – 2020 (EY)