

28 June 2023

Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



The Federal Government's historic Indigenous Voice referendum bill passed through the Senate last week, paving the way for all Australians to make their choice.

For the first time in 24 years, you will be asked to decide on whether to alter the Constitution to enable the Indigenous Voice.

And for many of us, it will be the first time we've ever taken part in a referendum.

I know there has been some confusion around what this means, and many in our community don't fully understand what they are voting for.

The question Australians will vote on is: "A Proposed Law to alter the Constitution to recognise First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice."

A lot has been written about the "yes" and "no" cases, and I'm sure you will hear a lot more before the referendum, which is expected to be held between October and December this year.

To ensure residents are properly informed, Council will establish a "Your Choice, Your Voice" information page, presenting balanced and unbiased information with the Federal Government's "Yes" and "No" referendum material.

We will also be holding information sessions across our City to distribute the Federal Government material and provide some historical background.

I encourage you all to get involved and read up on the material, the context and the historical background so that you can make an informed choice.

The intention of the referendum is to unite, not divide, and my intention is to empower our community with accurate information.

After all, it is your choice, your voice.



Clr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR

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