

13/10/2022

Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

(Via email. CC Minister Burney, Minister Dreyfus)

Dear Treasurer,

Re: Budget funding for Treaty Commission and Truth and Justice Commission

As you know, the Greens support progress on all aspects of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. And we expect, based on recent announcements from the Labor Government, that there will be funding to advance the Voice in the next federal budget.

I am writing to you today to ask that you also ensure there is some initial funding to progress Treaty and Truth Telling in this budget also.

The Greens took to the federal election a model that called for

- At least \$8m per year to establish a Treaty Commission that could begin a national consultation process to promote discussion, raise awareness, and promote engagement on the need for Treaty or Treaties
- At least \$32m per year for a national Truth and Justice Commission, an independent body with the powers of a Royal Commission. The Commission would investigate and reveal historic and ongoing human rights abuses, wrongdoing, and provide recommendations on how to heal from them

I have attached a copy of our PBO costing for your reference.

Our model is one that we think could have a significant impact. Of course, we are open to constructive dialogue about other models. What is critical, is that there is a funding commitment, because we know that funding is often the first step toward other concrete action. So ensuring that Truth and Treaty are part of the first budget would be a powerful signal that progress on all three parts of the Uluru Statement will occur this term.

The Greens also would like to see this first Albanese budget deliver further progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report and the Bringing Them Home report on the Stolen Generations, as well as a restoration of funding to First Nations programs that will have tangible impacts in people's live right now.

I look forward to seeing what will be in the Budget on Oct 25th. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about our proposal.

Yours Sincerely,



Lidia Thorpe
Senator for Victoria



Parliamentary
Budget Office

Exempt under s7(1) and Division 1 of Part I of Schedule 2 of the FOI Act.

16 November 2022

The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

By email: MinisterBurney@ia.pm.gov.au

Dear Minister Burney,

Re: First Nations Portfolio Updates

Thank you for our recent meetings and I welcome the opportunity to continue working with you during this term towards justice for our people.

I appreciate that your office is engaged in a range of initiatives within the First Nations portfolio, and as the Greens spokesperson for First Nations I wish to stay up to date with important developments in the portfolio.

As such, I would be grateful if your office could provide me with an update on any developments in the First Nations portfolio. I would also very much appreciate it if you could provide us with some key contact persons in the NIAA who we can approach with questions on specific cases when community members approach us with concerns, as this has proven to be very helpful in the last term of parliament.

I would be happy for these to be provided via email to my policy adviser s22(1) s22(1) though I am always grateful for any invitation to meet with you in person to discuss any advancements within the First Nations portfolio.

I would also like to follow up on the briefing you mentioned your team would be able to provide on the government's plans for the Treaty process, which we would still very much appreciate.

Please contact my office manager s22(1) @aph.gov.au or s22(1) to progress a meeting.

I look forward to working with you on the above.

Yours sincerely,



Senator Lidia Thorpe

Greens Senator for Victoria
Greens spokesperson for First Nations

14 December 2022

Hon Mark Dreyfus MP
Attorney-General of Australia

By email: attorney@ag.gov.au

Cc: Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

Dear Attorney-General,

Re: Sovereignty of First Nations people

Thank you again for our meetings on a way forward on the Government's plans for a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

As discussed in the meetings, ensuring the Sovereignty of this country's First Peoples is not ceded or disturbed by the First Nations Voice to Parliament is a priority for the Australian Greens.

You have in our meetings proposed that First Nations Sovereignty would not be impacted by the Voice to Parliament, an assertion which has been further stressed through the Minister representing you in the Senate and your Department in the recent Senate Estimates.

However, your Department also stated in Estimates that it has not received any legal advice to base this assertion on.

To make an evidence-based decision, and satisfy the concerns of those who are worried about our capacity to ensure future Treaty-making is not impacted, we would therefore like to request more information about what the government's assertion of Sovereignty not being impacted is constitutionally based on and any other background information you can provide on this topic.

In our meetings we had also discussed that we would like to be reassured about Sovereignty not being impacted through clear statements to this effect through both the Referendum Bill as well as the materials distributed as part of the Referendum itself.

This could be pursued in the following ways:

1. Inclusion of wording that the Sovereignty of the First Peoples of this country would not be ceded or disturbed by the new provision (the First Nations Voice to Parliament) in the Schedule of the proposed constitutional amendment in the Referendum Bill. This should be further reflected in the second reading speech and the Explanatory memorandum to clearly state the intention.

2. Inclusion of wording that the Sovereignty of the First Peoples of this country would not be ceded or disturbed as a preamble on the ballot paper put to the Australian people at the Referendum.

We would appreciate your consideration of the above measures as a reassurance and guarantee to the First Peoples of this country - the longest living culture on earth.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Lidia Thorpe

Senator for Victoria

Greens spokesperson for First Nations



Adam Bandt

Member for Melbourne

Greens Leader