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## TWELFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT COUNCIL ON CLOSING THE GAP

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### COMMUNIQUE

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Joint Council members were welcomed on 5 July 2024 to Tarntanya on Kurna Yerta (Country) in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of NAIDOC celebrations, by Kurna and Narungga man Mr Jack Kanya Kudnuitya Buckskin. Joint Council paid respects to Kurna elders, acknowledging their continuing custodianship of the land.

Joint Council welcomed the Productivity Commission's first Three-Yearly Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Review). The findings and recommendations of the Review will inform the ongoing implementation of the National Agreement. Half way through the National Agreement key structures and processes have been established. But Joint Council agreed more needs to be done to deliver on the ground and in communities.

Joint Council agreed to the four key recommendations of the Review and to 15 of the 16 recommended actions. Joint Council agreed to do further work before deciding how to progress Action 2.2 on Indigenous Data, including establishing a data policy partnership to accelerate progress on data and report back to Joint Council.

Parties discussed the importance of transforming government agencies to deliver on the National Agreement including Governments' commitment to establishing an independent mechanism for their jurisdictions. The Commonwealth Independent Mechanism will be established in partnership with the Peaks.

Governments have committed in principle to resource work under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. All parties remain fully committed to its implementation. Joint Council agreed to immediately prioritise funding for the Indigenous Led Review and Assembly, as required to improve delivery under the 2020 Agreement.

Joint Council discussed a new approach to develop an Inland Waters Target which stands to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ownership and control of their waters.

Joint Council received important updates on the work of the Policy Partnerships for Early Childhood Care and Development, Justice and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages

Further information on Closing the Gap can be found here: [Home | Closing the Gap](#)

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**ATTENDEES – COALITION OF PEAKS REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms Pat Turner AM	Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations	Joint Council Co-Chair; Lead Convenor, Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations
Mr John Leha	NSW	Co-Chair, New South Wales Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations
Mr Michael Graham	VIC	Co-Chair, Ngaweeyan Maar-oo
Ms Wynetta Dewis	QLD	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service
Ms Vicki O'Donnell OAM	WA	Chair, Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Dr Scott Wilson	SA	Lead Convenor, South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network
Mr Graeme Gardner	TAS	Chairperson, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Ms Paula McGrady	ACT	Deputy Chairperson, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
Dr John Paterson	NT	Lead Convenor, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
Ms Muriel Bamblett AO	Education and Families	Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
Ms Donnella Mills	Health and Wellbeing	Chair, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Mr Jamie Lowe	Economic Development	Chief Executive Officer, National Native Title Council
Ms Karly Warner	Justice	Chair, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

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**ATTENDEES – GOVERNMENT PARTIES**

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Hon Linda Burney MP	Commonwealth	Joint Council Co-Chair, Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy	Commonwealth	Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians
Hon David Harris MP	NSW	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty
Hon Natalie Hutchins MP	VIC	Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Hon Leeanne Enoch MP	QLD	Minister for Treaty and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA	WA	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Hon Kyam Maher MLC	SA	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Hon Roger Jaensch MP	TAS	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Ms Rachel Stephen Smith MLA	ACT	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Hon Chansey Paech MLA (virtual)	NT	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty

**APOLOGIES**

Name	Representing	Organisation
Cr Linda Scott	Government Parties	Australian Local Government Association

**GUESTS AND PRESENTERS**

Name	Representing	Organisation
Ms Sheryl Hedges (virtual)	Government Parties	Branch Head, First Nations Water, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Ms Catherine Liddle	Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership	Peaks Co-Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Ms Kylie Crane (virtual)		Commonwealth Co-Chair, Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood and Youth, Department of Education
Ms Karly Warner	Justice Policy Partnership	Peaks Co-Chair, Chair, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
Ms Tamsyn Harvey (virtual)		Commonwealth Co-Chair, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Communities, Attorney-General's Department
Mr Beau Williams (virtual)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership	Peaks Co-Chair, Chief Executive Officer, First Languages Australia
Dr Stephen Arnott (virtual)		Commonwealth Co-Chair, Deputy Secretary, Creative Economy and the Arts, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts