

## Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.5

Options – 26 January

6 September 2022

**Presenter:** Justin Hanney, Chief Executive Officer

### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to the Future Melbourne Committee resolution of 26 July 2022 titled '26 January'.
2. The resolution noted and sought:
  - 2.1. 26 January, as declared by the Commonwealth Government in 1994, is Australia's national day
  - 2.2. for many people in the City of Melbourne and across Australia this date is divisive and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is marked as the anniversary of invasion and a day of mourning
  - 2.3. there is growing national debate about whether Australia's national day should be changed to a date that can unify all Australians to celebrate what it means to be Australian
  - 2.4. that an options paper be presented (Attachment 1).
3. In responding to this resolution, management has undertaken consultation with constituents and stakeholders and has prepared the attached options paper to guide how the City of Melbourne could manage 26 January from 2023 onwards, including outlining the current and proposed State and Federal Government approaches and advocacy options towards the change the date movement.

### Key issues

4. The call to change the date of Australia Day can be traced back to the early 1900's including in 1938, on the anniversary of the landing of the first fleet at Sydney Cove when a protest was held at Australia Hall in Sydney. The current #changethedate campaign is not organised by a single entity but are a series of campaigns organised by different individuals and groups with a common purpose of moving Australia Day from 26 January. Momentum and support for #changethedate has grown year on year. Protests on 26 January calling for a change of date have grown from an estimated 2,500 in 2016 to 10,000 in 2021.
5. In Melbourne, the Victorian Government have traditionally organised a range of activities on 26 January including flag raising ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall, a parade along Swanston Street, a family festival in Kings Domain and a public fireworks display in Docklands. During COVID-19 these events were disrupted with all events being cancelled in 2021. An Australia Day Concert was the only event held in 2022.
6. The City of Melbourne (CoM) contributes funding to Baitl Narun – Sharing the Spirit Festival and has previously funded a Morning of Mourning. Previously CoM has provided sponsorship to the Victorian Government towards Australia Day events but this has not been sought since 2020.
7. The City of Melbourne delivers a Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January. The ceremony is attended by 150 candidates and is identical in number and form to the other Citizenship ceremonies delivered by CoM across the year.
8. It is not within the City of Melbourne's authority to change Australia Day. The Australian and Victorian Governments do not have a policy position on changing the date of Australia Day.
9. Surveys conducted by the City of Melbourne indicates support to change the date.
  - 9.1. A previous survey of the five traditional owner organisations that make up the Eastern Kulin indicated 100% support for changing the date.

- 9.2. A phone survey of 1609 City of Melbourne residents and business owners conducted from the 4-7 August found that:
- 9.2.1. 59.8 per cent collectively support changing the date, versus 31.6 per cent who do not.
  - 9.2.2. 59.9 per cent indicated that it was likely Australia Day would be moved from 26 January within the next 10 years.
  - 9.2.3. 55.1 per cent believe that local council should hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day.
  - 9.2.4. When selecting from a range of activities, 31.3 per cent indicated that activities that acknowledge Indigenous Australians should be held on Australia Day.
  - 9.2.5. There was little difference in the responses of residents and businesses

### **Recommendation from management**

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
- 10.1. Requests management prepare a program that supports the Truth Telling major initiative to assist a broader understanding of Aboriginal experiences and sentiments relating to 26 January.
  - 10.2. Requests that management continue to hold, on behalf of the Federal Government, a citizenship ceremony on Australia Day that will incorporate First Nations elements
  - 10.3. Endorses management continuing to issue permits for events delivered by the Victorian Government held on Australia Day
  - 10.4. Endorses continued support for events that acknowledge First Nations perspectives of Australia Day
  - 10.5. Notes that all Traditional Owner organisations and the majority of surveyed residents and businesses within the municipality support changing the date of Australia Day
  - 10.6. Adopts the position that the date of Australia Day should be changed and requests the Lord Mayor write to the Victorian and Australian Governments communicating the positions set out in this resolution
  - 10.7. Requests management provide a further report to Council in the event of either the Victorian or Australian Government changing their position towards Australia Day

#### **Attachments:**

- 1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 10)
- 2. Options Paper - 26 January (Page 4 of 10)

## **Supporting Attachment**

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### **Legal**

1. There are no known legal implications.

### **Finance**

2. There are no financial implications

### **Conflict of interest**

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### **Health and Safety**

4. In developing this proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified

### **Stakeholder consultation**

5. CoM has engaged traditional owners on the Council Plan 2021-2021, the Reconciliation Action Plan and has previously written to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land & Waters Council and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, to seek their views in relation to Australia Day.
6. The views of 7 Aboriginal community organisations based in the greater Melbourne area were surveyed to obtain their views in relation to Australia Day.
7. The City of Melbourne conducted a phone survey of between the 4-7 August 2022 of residents and business of the municipality. The survey was conducted among a sample of 1,609 people aged 18 and over.

### **Relation to Council policy**

8. The recommendations are consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025 (including major initiative #23: Truth Telling), Reconciliation Action Plan (including Truth Telling) and the United Nation Sustainable Goals.

### **Environmental sustainability**

9. Environmental sustainability issues or opportunities have not been considered for this proposal as the recommendations are not anticipated to trigger any substantive changes

## **Options Paper – 26 January**

### **1. Executive Summary**

In 1994 Australia Day was gazetted as a National Public Holiday. Prior to this there have been different names and days adopted by different states. In 1946 the Commonwealth and State Governments agreed to unify the celebration on 26 January and call it Australia Day, however the day was celebrated on the closest Monday to 26 January.

Since the early 1900's Aboriginal rights groups have boycotted Australia Day. More recently there is an ongoing campaign to change the date.

In Melbourne the Victorian Government have traditionally organised a range of activities including flag raising ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall, a parade along Swanston Street, a family festival in Kings Domain and a public fireworks display in Docklands.

The City of Melbourne does not organise any events to celebrate Australia Day. In the past the City of Melbourne has provided sponsorship to the Victorian Government but has not provided any sponsorship since 2020. It does provide some funding to events that are delivered on 26 January.

A Citizenship ceremony is conducted on the 26 January as required by the Citizenship code. The number of candidates and form of the ceremony is identical to others run throughout the year.

The Cities of Yarra, Moreland and Darebin in 2017 all passed motions relating to 26 January. Each passed similar motions the main points of which are:

- Acknowledges the meaning of 26 January for Aboriginal people
- Support and advocate #changethedate campaign including to the Federal Government
- Public awareness campaign about 26 January and #changethedate campaign
- Not hold Australia Day events on 26 January
- Rename Community Awards and conduct on another day

The City of Yarra and City of Darebin also moved a motion to not hold a citizenship ceremony on the 26 January. In response the Commonwealth Government removed these Council's powers to conduct citizenship ceremonies.

The City of Melbourne has previously written to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land & Waters Council and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional owner organisations (the bodies responsible for administering the collective rights of their respective traditional owner families), that make up the Eastern Kulin. When asked "Should the City of Melbourne celebrate Australia Day?" all five responded no.

A 2022 phone survey conducted between the 4-7 August, found that:

- 59.8% collectively support changing the date, versus 31.6% who do not. The remainder expressed a neutral view.
- 54.3% agreed whilst 35.3% disagreed with the campaign to change the date. The remainder expressed a neutral view.
- 59.9% indicated that it was likely Australia Day would be moved from 26 January within 10 years.
- 55.1% believe that local council should hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day.
- 31.3% indicated that activities that acknowledge Indigenous Australians should be held on Australia day.
- The majority of business owners tended to side with residents on all responses.
- Woman, people aged 49 and younger, and those with higher education levels were more likely to support the change of date for Australia Day.

## 2. Background

26 January is the anniversary of Captain Arthur Phillip landing in Sydney Cove and raising the Union flag in 1788. The colony was formally founded and Arthur Phillip's governorship proclaimed on February 7.

26 January was first gazetted as a public holiday for New South Wales by Governor Macquarie in 1818, when it was referred to as First Landing Day or Foundation Day. The other colonies had different founding day holidays. Victoria adopted 26 January as Australia Day in 1931. In 1946 the Commonwealth and State Governments agreed to unify the celebration on 26 January and call it Australia Day. Before 1994 Australia Day was the closest Monday to 26 January to ensure a long weekend. In 1994 the gazettement of 26 January as the Australia Day public holiday became uniform.

Since the early 1900's Aboriginal rights groups have boycotted Australia Day. On 26 January 1938, on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove a protest was held at Australia Hall in Sydney. This event is now recognised as a Day of Mourning and is the genesis of the NAIDOC. The day is also known as 'Invasion' or 'Survival' Day in the Aboriginal community.

## 3. Australia Day in Melbourne

### 3.1. Victorian Government events

In Melbourne the Victorian Government have traditionally organised a range of activities including flag raising ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall, a parade along Swanston Street, a family festival in Kings Domain and a public fireworks display in Docklands.

The table below sets out the events organised by the Victorian Government since 2018 and funding provided where applicable. NB No Australia Day event organised in 2021 due to COVID-19. No sponsorship was requested in 2022.

Year	Name of Event	Location	Applicant / Organiser	Approx Attendance	Event permit fees (excludes POPE or reserved parking)	Sponsorships
2018	Australia Day 2018	Flag Raising ceremony, outside Melbourne Town Hall Parade, along Swanston St (between Lonsdale St and St Kilda Rd) Festival Site, Kings Domain Fireworks, Docklands (Harbour Esplanade)	Department of Premier and Cabinet	72,000	\$38,191 Waived in full under sponsorship agreement	Event Partnership Program, \$100k cash
2019	Australia Day 2019	Flag Raising ceremony, outside Melbourne Town Hall Parade, along Swanston St (between Lonsdale St and St Kilda Rd) Festival Site, Kings Domain Fireworks, Docklands (Harbour Esplanade)	Department of Premier and Cabinet	12,000	\$48,949 Waived in full under sponsorship agreement	Event Partnership Program, \$100k cash
2020	Australia Day 2020	Flag Raising ceremony, outside Melbourne Town Hall Parade, along Swanston St (between Lonsdale St and St Kilda Rd) Festival Site, Kings Domain Celebration (no fireworks), Docklands (Harbour Esplanade)	Department of Premier and Cabinet	2,000	\$40,324 Waived in full under the sponsorship agreement	Event Partnership Program, \$100k cash (full sponsorship honoured despite cancellation of fireworks)
2022	Australia Day 2022 Concert	Flagstaff Gardens	Department of Premier and Cabinet	8,000	Total fees \$8,682.75 - Waived \$6,518 as a government entity - Paid balance of \$1,476	N/A

### 3.2. City of Melbourne events

In order to prevent duplication with the Victorian Government, the City of Melbourne (CoM) does not organise any events to celebrate Australia Day. However some sponsorship is provided to events that are delivered on 26 January. Historically CoM has provided sponsorship to the Victorian Government towards Australia Day events through various grant programs but this has not been sought since 2020.

Funded events (excluding Victorian Government) since 2018 are listed below:

2018	Australia Day Women's Ceremony	Women's Peace Garden, Kensington	National Council of Women of Victoria Inc.	40	\$527.00 Waived as a not-for-profit entity	N/A
2019	Share the Spirit - Balit Narun	Treasury Gardens	Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation	9,500	\$10,234.26 Waived as a not-for-profit entity	Strategic Partnership Program, \$45k cash
2020	Share the Spirit - Balit Narun	Treasury Gardens	Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation	15,000	\$10,725 Waived as a not-for-profit entity	Strategic Partnership Program, \$45k cash
2021	Morning of Mourning	Kings Domain	City of Melbourne	500	\$20,860 Waived as CoM was the applicant	N/A
2022	Share the Spirit - Balit Narun	Arts Centre, as part of NAIDOC Week (postponed, following cancellation of event on 26 Jan)	Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation	Post event report not yet received	N/A Was not permitted by City of Melbourne	Arts and Creative Investments Partnerships program, \$51,900 cash

### 3.3. Citizenship Ceremonies

3.3.1. In 2022, CoM have hosted 10 Citizenship ceremonies with a further 3 more to be delivered in August, September and November. At each ceremony there is approximately 150 candidates. The candidates are allocated to a ceremony by the Department of Home Affairs, with candidates allocated to CoM ceremonies on the basis that they live within the municipality boundaries. The Citizenship ceremonies are officiated by the Lord Mayor/Deputy Lord Mayor/Acting Lord Mayor as presiding officers.

3.3.2. The Citizenship ceremony on Australia Day is identical in number and form to the other Citizenship ceremonies delivered by CoM. The event has previously been timed to allow new Citizens to join the function and parade that occurs at the front of Town Hall and along Swanston Street.

3.3.3. Each of the ceremonies including the Australia Day ceremony cost approximately \$20,000 per ceremony or \$260,000 annually which is funded by CoM.

3.3.4. The conduct of ceremonies is governed by the Australian Government Citizenship Code ([Citizenship Ceremonies Code \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship/citizenship-ceremonies-code)) which sets out the compulsory, recommended and optional elements. The code says that "Local government councils must hold a citizenship ceremony on 26 January as part of their Australia Day celebrations, unless they are exempt. Councils that conferred citizenship on less than 20 people in the previous year are exempt from this requirement. The Code does not set out any penalties for not delivering the ceremony on 26 January, however other Councils who have not held a ceremony on the 26 January have had their power to conduct ceremonies at any point withdrawn.

## 4. Policy Framework

### 4.1. City of Melbourne

4.1.1. The Council Plan 2021-2025 identified Aboriginal Melbourne as a strategic objective. The priorities for the objective include:

- Governing with First Peoples drives our city forward and allows community to make the changes needed for the City of Melbourne to be an Aboriginal city.
- We embrace and promote our First Peoples' identity across all areas of the city, including city design, and give voice to the treaty process with First Peoples.
- The community is well educated about Melbourne's First Peoples' culture, lore, knowledge and heritage.
- The activation and protection of First Peoples' culture and know-how is a key driver to economic growth and increases Melbourne's international engagement and participation.
- First Peoples experts are consulted and lead sustainable land management practices and implement 'Caring for Country' principles in the management, planning and development of city land.

4.1.2. Within the Council Plan, major initiative #23 states: Explore and deliver opportunities for 'truth-telling' to facilitate learning, healing, and change within Melbourne and beyond. This will be an opportunity to impart knowledge of thousands of years of rich history, language and stories, as well as provide a form of restorative justice by acknowledging Aboriginal peoples' experiences of dispossession and inequity.

4.1.3. The City of Melbourne has a long history of working to embed reconciliation across the organisation and within the community. CoM formally recognised the unique place Aboriginal peoples and their communities have within our rich, diverse and prosperous city with the adoption of our Statement of commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in 1999. The City of Melbourne was the first local government authority to adopt a Reconciliation Action Plan in 2006. In June 2021, CoM launched its fifth Reconciliation Action Plan.

4.1.4. In addition to the four standard pillars of a RAP, CoM introduced a fifth pillar focused on truth-telling. This embedded major initiative #23 into the RAP and highlights that truth-telling plays a role in helping the community work towards a future where all Australians enjoy equal rights and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

4.1.5. Council has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) that promote prosperity while protecting our planet, now and into the future – with a central promise to leave no one behind. Goals 10, 11, 16 and 17 specifically relate to the Aboriginal community. In 2022 Council published a voluntary local review which found that 95.7% of people surveyed believed the relationship with Aboriginal people is important. Further it found that only 10.5% of people surveyed were able to demonstrate an understanding of Melbourne's Aboriginal heritage and culture, dropping to 5.7% for City of Melbourne residents.

## 4.2. Victorian Government

4.2.1. The Victorian Government as outlined above arranges a series of public events on Australia Day. There is no published position to change current arrangements or to support an alternative day.

4.2.2. The Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023 outlines the Victorian Governments approach to Aboriginal Affairs, an approach that places Aboriginal voices at its heart. It sets out whole of government self-determination enablers and principles, and commits government to significant structural and systemic transformation. Work of the Victorian Government is focused on four areas: Prioritise culture, addressing trauma and support healing, address racism and promote cultural safety, transfer power and resources to communities.

4.2.3. The Victorian Government is committed to a treaty or treaties with the Aboriginal communities in Victoria and have established the First Peoples' Assembly as an independent and democratically elected body to represent Traditional Owners of Country and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria.

4.2.4. Following recommendations from the First People's Assembly, the Victorian Government established the Yoorrook Justice Commission. Their role is to:

- Establish an official record of the impact of colonisation on Traditional Owners and First Peoples in Victoria.
- Develop a shared understanding among all Victorians of the impact of colonisation, as well as the diversity.
- Strength and resilience of First Peoples' cultures.
- Make recommendations for healing, system reform and practical changes to laws, policy and education, as well as to matters to be included in future treaties.

## 4.3. Australian Government

4.3.1. On 22 May 2022 the Albanese Labor Government was elected. The Prime Minister in his election victory speech said "I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. And on behalf of the Australian Labor Party, I commit to the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full."

4.3.2. The Australian Government has not made any public comments or released any policy that suggests any changes to Australia Day. The Prime Minister has said that "Australia Day for Indigenous Australians is a difficult day" but the date should not be moved.

4.3.3. The Prime Minister reconfirmed the commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from The Heart at the July 2022 Garma Festival and released the proposed wording of the referendum

questions. The commitment is to establish a First Nations Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission that will work on a national process of treaty-making and truth-telling.

## 5. Attitudes towards Australia Day

5.1. Broader community attitudes towards reconciliation, addressing past injustices, truth telling and providing a constitutional voice are receiving growing levels of support.

- A process to enter into treaties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has commenced in Victoria, Northern Territory, Tasmania, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia.
- The Victorian Government established the Yoorrook Justice Commission in 2021. One of its responsibilities is to make recommendations for healing, system reform and practical changes to laws, policy and education, as well as matters to be included in future treaties.
- The Uluru Statement from the Heart was created by Indigenous people from around Australia on the 26 May 2017 and it:
  - Describes the key challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities
  - Proposes three structural reforms to address these challenges:
    - A voice to Parliament that is enshrined in the Constitution
    - A Makarrata Commission that would lead a process of:
      - Agreement making, or treaties
      - Truth-telling about our nation's history
- The Melbourne Walk for Reconciliation in 2000 drew an estimated 300,000 people, more than walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- The National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008 was watched by millions of Australians on big screens in their own cities and towns including at Federation Square.

## 6. Local Governments

6.1. The Cities of Yarra, Moreland and Darebin in 2017 made formal decisions relating to 26 January. Each adopted similar resolutions, the main points of which are:

- Acknowledges the meaning of 26 January for Aboriginal people
- Support and advocate #changethedate campaign including to the Federal Government
- Public awareness campaign about 26 January and #changethedate campaign
- Not hold Australia Day events on 26 January
- Rename Community Awards and conduct on another day

The City of Yarra and City of Darebin also adopted resolutions to not hold a citizenship ceremony on the 26 January. In response the Federal Government removed these Council's powers to conduct citizenship ceremonies at any point.

6.1 Sydney's Inner West Council on 12 November 2019 adopted a resolution to:

- Approve the mandated Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony with a requirement to conduct it in such a manner to respect the importance of the day for First Nations peoples
- Transfer other events to days other than 26 January
- Advocate to ALGA/LGNSW with respect to 26 January
- Cease referring to 26 January as Australia Day in its communications unless otherwise required by legislation

6.2 Fremantle Council on the 24 August 2016 adopted a resolution to:

- End Australia Day celebrations
- Discuss with the Chamber of Commerce and Nyoongar Elders alternative options for Australia Day



- Based on feedback from Aboriginal elders, Fremantle community, and business sector look at replacement events

In November 2016 Fremantle Council moved its Australia Day celebration to 28 January. The Federal Government in response informed the Council that it could not hold any Citizenship ceremonies unless it also delivered one on Australia Day. Fremantle Council in response agreed to offer a citizenship ceremony on 26 January.

6.3 Hobart City Council in October 2017 passed a motion to join the campaign to change the date of Australia Day. The Council continued to support the holding of Australia Day events, a citizenship ceremony and Aboriginal events on Australia Day.

6.4 In 2017 the National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association discussed Australia Day. The vote of all delegates present on the question whether the date of Australia Day should be moved was narrowly won. The motion called on Councils to work with local communities on the issue.

## 7 Changing the Date Campaign

7.1 The push to change the date started with the Aboriginal community and goes back to the early 1900's. On 26 January 1938, on the 150th Anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove a protest was held at Australia Hall in Sydney.

7.2 The campaign to change the date is not run or organised by single organisation but can be viewed as a series of campaigns with a common purpose. There are different views on the best day to hold Australia Day including those that believe the day should be abolished until a treaty is reached with First Nations people. However, many who believe in change the date do so because they want to celebrate Australia but they do not feel that 26 January represents aspects of history that should be celebrated. Momentum and support for #changethedate has grown year on year.

7.3 There are a number of websites that have been published on #changethedate including [Home | Change It Ourselves](#) , [Change The Date – Articles about changing the date of Australia Day](#) , [Change the Date \(changedate.com.au\)](#)

7.4 Historically there has been an Australia Day protest in the CBD calling for a change of date. The march usually commences at State Parliament before going down Bourke Street, along Swanston to Flinders before making its way to either Federation Square or Kings Domain. The size and scale of the Australia Day protests has grown from an estimated 2,500 in 2016 to 10,000 in 2021.

7.5 Some businesses and community organisations are supporting change the date by allowing their staff to work on 26 January and take an alternative date for a public holiday.

## 8 City of Melbourne Consultation

8.1 The City of Melbourne has previously written to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land & Waters Council and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional owner organisations (the bodies responsible for administering the collective rights of their respective traditional owner families), that make up the Eastern Kulin. When asked "Should the City of Melbourne celebrate Australia Day?" all five responded no.

8.2 A survey previously sent by email to seven Aboriginal organisations based in greater Melbourne, when asked to provide feedback on "what should the City of Melbourne do in relation to Australia Day?" responded:

- 65% support for Share the Spirit Festival
- 62% support for #changethedate campaign
- 54% support Aboriginal Dawn Service in Kings Domain
- 27% support for Flag raising ceremony
- 19% support for Family friendly events in Kings Domain
- 15% support for Australia Day parade

- 12% support for Citizenship Ceremony
- 4% support for Docklands Fireworks

8.3 The City of Melbourne conducted a phone survey of between the 4-7 August 2022 of residents and business of the municipality. The survey was conducted among a sample of 1,609 people aged 18 and over. Following completion of the surveys, data was cell-weighted by gender and age to reflect local population proportions. The effective sample size following weighting is 1027.

The survey found that:

- 59.8% collectively support changing the date, versus 31.6% who do not (the remainder expressed a neutral view).
- When asked to what extent they support the *campaign* to change the date of Australia Day 54.3% agreed whilst 35.3% disagreed (the remainder expressed a neutral view).
- 59.9% indicated that it was likely Australia Day would be moved from 26 January.
- 55.1% believe that local council should hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day.
- 31.3% indicated that activities that acknowledge Indigenous Australians should be held on Australia Day.
- The majority of business owners tended to side with residents on all responses.

The phone survey highlighted that women, people aged 49 and younger, and those with higher education levels were more likely to support the change of date for Australia Day. This may be an opportunity to educate the broader community on 26 January and its meaning to First Nations people.