



# Archdiocese of Hobart

Chancery Services

28 February 2023

Mr Kim Chen  
Chairman, Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc.

Dear Kim,

His Grace has asked me to respond to your recent letter regarding the acts and decrees the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council, with special mention of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and forthcoming referendum.

As I wrote to you in August last year, the acts and decrees of the Plenary Council require the Apostolic See's still outstanding recognitio (c446 CIC) before they can be promulgated, obliging a further six months following promulgation. His Grace remains firm in his informed belief that in the absence of proper juridic force from the Apostolic See it would be both precipitous and imprudent to create expectation on matters which may yet be subject of further amendment, or rejection in part, or complete.

Similarly, with regard the Uluru Statement and the likely forthcoming referendum. Several formal steps remain outstanding in the government's process before any serious "formative message" might reasonably be offered by the Archdiocese for the information of the Faithful. For one, the Commonwealth government is yet to table the necessary bill to initiate a referendum, or for that matter finalise the referendum question.

Further, while the principles of reconciliation and walking together fit well in the Catholic understanding, with diverse views persisting within Indigenous communities and among indigenous leaders on the Uluru Statement and in particular the Voice to parliament, we must be clear on what is being proposed, and how this will both advance the cause of reconciliation in our nation and contribute toward the common good.

Accordingly, in the absence of definitive information which the government's process will in due course provide, His Grace is not disposed at this stage to encourage people of Faith to do anything more than continue to listen with open hearts and minds.

Kindest regards

**Michael McKenna**

Director, Chancery Services.