



# Australian Community Futures Planning

## Questions about *Australia Together*

### How is Australia's Constitution inconsistent with the Vision for *Australia Together*?

### What's in this fact sheet?

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[Read](#) the latest draft of *Australia Together*

<https://www.austcfp.com.au/australia-together>

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## Question 1 – What is the Vision for *Australia Together*?

The Vision for *Australia Together* sets out the aspirations of Australians for the future of their nation. It is a draft vision that has been assembled by ACFP by scanning the views of Australians on the best future they can imagine as those views have been expressed in various surveys and research programs over the last two decades. [Read the latest draft of the Vision for \*Australia Together\* here.](#)

The draft Vision has been assembled to enable ACFP to run trials of a process for development of Australia's first National Community Futures Plan – we've called that plan [Australia Together](#). The planning process on trial is called [National Integrated Planning & Reporting](#). It is an inclusive planning process enabling any and all Australians to become involved in planning a better future for their country and presenting that plan to those they elect as a statement of their preferred destination as a nation and their preferred paths toward it.

In effect, the draft Vision for *Australia Together* and the National Integrated Planning & Reporting process devised by ACFP comprise an experimental program in which we are all able to ask a question that is fundamental to our quality of life and even to our survival. That question is:

**If the draft Vision for *Australia Together* is what Australians want for their future,  
what is the safest way to get there?**

ACFP's role in this process is to provide Australians with the tools they need to answer that question in an organised and efficient way. We are helping them design a plan to make the best future they can imagine in the 2020s into a reality by 2050 or sooner. One of the key tools we offer for that purpose is the [Australia Together National Wellbeing Index](#). This is a database of the factual information that we all need to be able to develop strategies which will make the Vision a reality without resulting in exclusion of diverse Australians or an increase in inequality.

The [draft Vision for \*Australia Together\*](#) is revised from time to time as information comes to light about changes in or development of the preferences of Australians for their future or for safe paths towards these preferences. The Vision is comprised of:

- a high level one-page Vision statement containing 17 statements about the aspirations that Australians have expressed for the quality of life they wish to be able to lead by 2050; and
- 57 Direction statements of the preferred and safe routes toward that Vision.

An important feature of this planning system is its efficiency. It is structured to help everyday Australians efficiently select strategies which fit with the Vision. Anyone wishing to suggest a strategy can simply ask themselves if that strategy would drive us towards the destination described in the Vision or away from it, and they can ask whether it would drive us there via safe routes. They can also ask themselves if the strategy would marginalise some groups in society or exclude them. Strategies that exclude any particular group are inconsistent with the Vision for *Australia Together*. [Find out how to suggest a strategy for inclusion in \*Australia Together\* here.](#)

**In the case of a strategy for a new Constitution – one in which the people of Australia have a rightful share of power, secure human rights, and a voice in their own governance – we can ask whether such a Constitution will drive them towards the Vision or away from it. The following analysis strongly suggests that **with the current Constitution Australians will be forced to travel away from the Vision** but **with a new People's Constitution they can make it a reality.****

## The draft Vision for *Australia Together*

This is an extract of the Vision for *Australia Together* as it stood in early 2024. For the latest draft of the full Vision and the 57 safe Directions towards the Vision, click [here](#).

# The Vision for *Australia Together*



**By 2050, we and our children and grandchildren will be living a fulfilling life in an Australia where**

We are all safe

We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination

Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life

We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing

We act together as a compassionate society

Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress

Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society

Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice

Vital services are fully accessible for all

Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared

National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared

Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone

As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society

Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival

Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals

We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations

We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world

**These are the aspirations of our hopeful generation. We commit to this Vision for *Australia Together* so that we can pass the gifts we have inherited to our children, and they to theirs.**

## Question 2 – How is the current Australian Constitution framed?

Australia's Constitution is a document that accords:

- legislative powers to the federal parliament;
- executive powers to a (foreign) Crown (currently King Charles III), the governor-general acting as his representative, and the executive council (a small selection of cabinet ministers);
- administrative powers to the federal ("commonwealth") government; and
- judicial powers to the courts.

**It accords no powers to the people** and, once they elect parliaments and governments, no right to a say in any matters including things like:

- the preferred future of their own nation;
- the purpose of the federation; and
- forms of participation in democracy beyond voting.

Nor does the Constitution pose limits to the power of parliaments or governments in relation to the human rights of Australians. Parliaments and governments may confer and deny human rights as and when they wish and there is nothing in the Constitution which either sets down the national values that Australians wish them to uphold and observe or stipulates what rights of Australians shall not be abused when parliaments or governments are making laws, administrative decisions or other decisions which might expose the nation to serious or existential threat (such as on climate change or entry into wars).

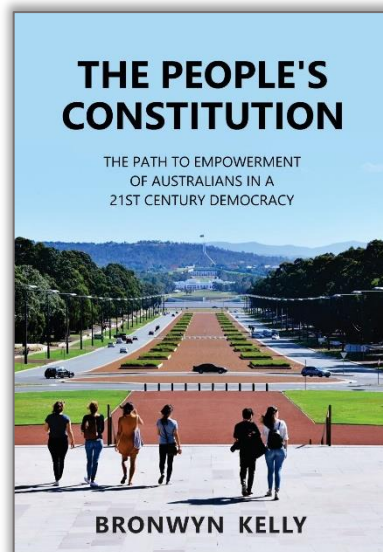
The Constitution does little more than say which level of government is authorised to make the laws pertaining to each area of administration. Other than saying that laws should be made for "peace, order and good government" ([section 51](#)) it offers no guiding principles for good law making – either in the form of national values, human rights or government obligations. Parliaments are free to make laws which are *not* in the national interest, the public interest, or the interests of future generations. They are bound by oath to nothing other than the current British monarch and have no binding obligation to the people who elect them.

## Question 3 – Is there a better way to frame a Constitution for a democracy?

Yes. If Australians are to play a role in building their own democratic nation and preferred future they need a Constitution which confers a rightful share of power on them – a share sufficient to impart political equality to them and to increase their influence to a level that will moderate corporate influence and reduce the potential for abuses of power and human rights. This rightful share of power for the people could be inserted into the Constitution in an orderly manner by the people of Australia themselves in the form of a new preamble and/or chapter in which we the people state:

1. our most sincerely held values as an indissoluble commonwealth (the values that hold us together and define what we stand for as a nation);
2. the human rights we wish to confer on ourselves and each other as equals;
3. the government's obligations to the people in observance of those rights; and
4. an additional right of the people to a Voice in how the nation should chart a course to a better future.

More detail on this structure for a new constitution fit for a 21<sup>st</sup> century democracy is set out in [The People’s Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21<sup>st</sup> century democracy](#) by ACFP’s Founder Bronwyn Kelly.






## Question 4 – Which form of Constitution is likely to enable Australians to make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality?

The analysis in **Table 1** below shows that **Australia’s current Constitution is entirely incapable of helping Australians use their democracy to deliver the Vision for *Australia Together***. It predisposes Australians to be dragged away from all 17 elements of the Vision, rather than towards them because it offers them no rights in their own democracy and particularly disempowers them in increasing the prospect that laws and administrative decisions will be made in the public and national interest.

Once Australians have voted in elections they are not empowered in the Constitution to play any further role in their own governance. In this arrangement they are left with no power or secure rights to shape their future as they wish – that is, they have no power to compel governments to make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality (or any other Vision, for that matter) and governments have no incentives to foster the public interest or refrain from acting against it if and when corporate influence demands.

**The risk posed for Australians by the current Constitution could, however, be significantly lessened were Australians to embark on an open, collaborative process to develop a new People’s Constitution** – one giving a reasonable share of power and rights to the people. [For more information on a National Collaborative Process for Development of an Australian People’s Constitution click here](#). To see how a People’s Constitution is necessary to ensure Australians can make their vision for a better future a reality, see [Question 6](#) and [Question 7](#) below.

**How to read Table 1** – When assessing the fitness of policies and laws for making the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality, ACFP uses coloured arrows to denote whether the policy or law will drive Australia towards or away from the Vision.

	<b>Green</b> arrows aimed to the right denote policies that arc towards the Vision.
	<b>Red</b> arrows aimed to the left denote policies that will drag us away from the Vision.
	<b>Split</b> arrows indicate that the policy would result in no movement either way.

In **Table 1** there are no green or split arrows because **there isn’t a single thing in the current Constitution that could be relied on to assist Australians to make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality**. Making such a Vision a reality requires democratic participation, which the Constitution does not securely provide for, even in a minimal form, since it does not guarantee voting rights for citizens. Voting rights in Australia can be removed on the basis of race and by other means. **If Australians want democracy, it is extremely unsafe to continue with the current Australian Constitution.**

## Question 5 – Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia towards or away from the Vision for *Australia Together*?

### Summary

The analysis in **Table 1** shows that the current Australian Constitution’s silence on:

- Australian values,
- human rights, and
- the obligations to Australians that parliaments and governments must observe once elected,

makes it entirely incapable of providing guidance to parliaments and governments sufficient to propel Australia towards the Vision for *Australia Together*. The current Constitution leaves it lawfully open to parliaments and governments to drag Australia away from the Vision and any aspirations they may have, regardless of whether that is in the interests of Australians and the nation as a whole.

**Conclusion: With the current Constitution Australians can in no way expect to achieve any of the 17 elements the Vision for *Australia Together*. It poses a grave risk to Australia’s safe passage to a better future because it imposes no obligations on parliaments and governments to make laws and policies that will make it a reality. It is an extraordinary barrier to fairness and sustainability in nation building. This derives from its colonial origins which are fundamentally monarchical and therefore undemocratic.**

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b><i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together. By 2050 ...</i></b>	<b><i>Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia towards or away from the Vision?</i></b>
<b>1. We are all safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australians are likely to determine that they are safe when they are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ free from violence in domestic settings and the workplace;</li> <li>○ free from the violence of war, genocide and nuclear contamination;</li> <li>○ free from abuse of their rights by governments and the state; and</li> <li>○ confident that the state will observe its obligations to provide for their health and wellbeing, especially by ensuring we are protected from the ravages of climate change, pollution, famine, and pandemics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unfortunately, Australia’s current Constitution accords no powers to the people of Australia. Major threats to the safety of Australians arise from the fact that under the Constitution they have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no say in decisions on entry into wars and the formation of strategic alliances;</li> <li>○ no say in decisions on expenditures of public money;</li> <li>○ no say in matters which expose Australia to significant risk such as risks from nuclear fallout and wastes, pandemics, and climate change; and</li> <li>○ almost no human rights.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>The Draft Vision for Australia Together. By 2050 ...</b>	<b>Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia towards or away from the Vision?</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Constitution protects the Crown, not the people, and at the extreme enables the Crown lawfully to order the military to bear arms against the people.</b> It places no obligation on any empowered official (elected or unelected) to secure the safety of Australians. For as long as the Constitution places no such obligation on those it empowers, Australians will be unable to compel governments to consider their safety first in all decisions.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The current Constitution cannot make us safe because it imposes no obligation on governments to make laws that will make us safe. On the contrary, it places the value of our safety at nought and that of the foreign Crown above all else.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>2. We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regardless of whether Australians agree that the continent was stolen from its first peoples, that lands were never ceded, and that Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders suffered significant loss and intergenerational inequity as a result of their dispossession, nothing in the Constitution compels the Crown to settle matters amicably with First Nations peoples and to recognise their rights as equals with other Australians in accordance with the <a href="#">United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</a>.</li> <li>• The Constitution does not of itself prevent reconciliation but it does pose a significant barrier, if only because of its silence on the rights of Indigenous Australians and its failure to recognise them.</li> <li>← • Without mention of the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Constitution it is very unlikely that a treaty with First Nations that everyone will agree is fair and just can be negotiated.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The current Constitution is very unlikely to result in reconciliation and a just and fair treaty with First Nations simply because it places to no onus on the Executive to finally settle matters of rightful sovereignty, fairness and justice with the continent’s original owners and supports the subordination of the interests of the people of Australia to the interests of the Crown and, by extension, its corporate patrons. The Constitution proclaims the continent to be a “possession” of the foreign King Charles III and does not acknowledge any other form of, or possibility of, ownership and sovereignty (either joint or several).</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution makes no mention of the need for an inclusive society where everyone is welcome to participate positively. Again it does not prevent inclusion but it does not recognise inclusion and positive participation as an Australian value and as something vital to prosperity and social cohesion.</li> <li>← • <b>Conclusion: Inasmuch as the Constitution is silent on the need for an inclusive society, it provides no impetus for laws which encourage Australians to participate positively as the diverse individuals that they are. It is more likely to promote division than inclusion.</b></li> </ul>

**Table 1**

<p><i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together. By 2050 ...</i></p>	<p><b>Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia <i>towards</i> or <i>away</i> from the Vision?</b></p>	
<p><b>4. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing</b></p>	<p>←</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution offers Australians a degree of freedom of religion but otherwise promotes nothing about what values and ideals might have inspired the Australian community about the sort of nation they wanted when they first formed a federation of states in 1901. It is furthermore entirely silent on what Australians value now and therefore is silent on what the modern purpose of the nation is or should be.</li> <li>• Unlike several other constitutions, such as the American Constitution, Australia’s Constitution mentions nothing about the need to foster wellbeing or the sort of society we might wish to form. Nor does it mention wellbeing as an acknowledged human right.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: For as long as the Constitution is silent on the right to wellbeing, Australians will have little if any capacity to compel governments to secure their wellbeing.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>5. We act together as a compassionate society</b></p>	<p>←</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being silent on Australian values, the Constitution provides no stimulus either to compassion in our society or the need to act together for that purpose.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The current Constitution cannot be relied on to promote togetherness. It is very likely to promote division.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress</b></p>	<p>←</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Australian Constitution acknowledges nothing about the need for political or social or equality regardless of differences such as in gender, ethnic origin, or economic status.</li> <li>• The Constitution’s silence on the need for equality absolves governments from working to promote it and from the need to make laws to require impacts on equality to be considered in all policy development and decisions.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution is likely to result in the entrenchment or growth of inequality.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society</b></p>	<p>←</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Australian Constitution acknowledges nothing about the diversity of our society and as such amounts to a tacit rejection of both the Indigenous culture and the post-war multicultural nation we have built.</li> <li>• In effect the Constitution anachronistically supports a white Australia, making it singularly inappropriate in a nation where approximately half the population was born overseas or had a parent born overseas.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution’s silence on the nation’s diversity and the need for acceptance and celebration of it will stymie efforts to capitalise on it and will reduce our prospects for harmony.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice</b></p>	<p>←</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of economic, social and cultural rights for Australians in the Constitution will ensure that educational opportunities will always be less than each Australian needs and deserves.</li> <li>• Inequality of access to education is the single largest cause of failure by many Australians to reach their potential and attain personal fulfilment. It is also the single largest cause of national economic decline.</li> <li>• If Australians want to lead fulfilling lives they must have civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed in their Constitution so that they cannot be taken away by legislation.</li> </ul>



<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>The Draft Vision for Australia Together. By 2050 ...</b>	<b>Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia towards or away from the Vision?</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution provides no human rights and imposes no obligation on governments to educate Australians. As such it largely negates the possibility for fulfilling lives.</b></li> </ul>
9. Vital services are fully accessible for all	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments are not required by the Constitution to provide vital services, let alone ensure they are accessible by all.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: Vital services will not be accessible for all, especially in remote areas.</b></li> </ul>
10. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation and resource management are obviously central to any nation’s sustainability and prosperity. And yet the current Constitution does not oblige parliaments or governments to conserve and manage our resources – scarce or otherwise.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: Since the Constitution imposes no positive duty to protect and conserve national resources parliaments are free to, and more likely to, make laws which promote and even subsidise corporate resource exploitation (no matter how unsustainable), corporate theft of natural assets, and contamination of land, air and waters.</b></li> </ul>
11. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair raising and sharing of national wealth is not required in the Constitution. Governments are unlimited in the methods and quantum of taxing and are bound by no corresponding rules about fair distribution or any other form of social contract.</li> <li>• Nor are governments required to ensure fair returns from use of Aboriginal lands by miners, pastoralists or the military.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution’s silence on fairness in wealth generation, taxation and welfare is much more likely to ensure growth in inequality than fairness.</b></li> </ul>
12. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution does not recognise Australians as the centre of their economy and does not bind governments to design and regulate economies for the equitable advancement of all Australians.</li> <li>• In particular, its silence on the need to lift the living standards of Indigenous Australians means it is structurally disposed to widen the inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians rather than “close the gap”.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: Absent a mention in the Constitution of the need for an economy which raises the living standards of everyone, Australia’s economy will be likely to entrench disadvantage and declining living standards.</b></li> </ul>
13. As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia’s Constitution makes no mention of obligations to cooperate globally on anything, including when existential threats such as climate change, biological hazards and emergencies, famine and war pose a common problem for all nations.</li> <li>• Nor does the Constitution admit of the need for responsible governance to ensure ecological sustainability. It admits of no obligations to the natural environment and species at all. Non-human species are treated as badly as humans.</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution offers no basis to compel governments to establish responsible systems of ecological stewardship either at home or as an international citizen and</b></li> </ul>
14. Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival	←	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conclusion: The Constitution offers no basis to compel governments to establish responsible systems of ecological stewardship either at home or as an international citizen and</b></li> </ul>

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>The Draft Vision for Australia Together. By 2050 ...</b>	<b>Does the current Australian Constitution propel Australia <i>towards</i> or <i>away</i> from the Vision?</b>
	<p><b>contains no barriers to destruction of the natural environment. By its silence on essential ecological obligations it is geared instead to enable destruction of the vital ecosystems on which all life depends.</b></p>
<p><b>15. Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals</b></p>	<p>←</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current Constitution gives no power or rights to Australians at all, let alone as political equals. It doesn't even enshrine their right to vote. Nor does it offer alternative avenues for participation in democracy and, contrary to the popular belief that it "implies a right to political communication", it does not extend that implied right securely to Australians as individuals.</li> <li>The Constitution also imposes no obligations for transparency, truth in political debate and journalism, ethical behaviour by those in power, or accessible education which is obviously vital to decency in political communication.</li> <li><b>Conclusion: Unless and until the Constitution explicitly guarantees a right for Australians to a voice in their democracy – beyond mere voting to elect those whose voice may replace their own – there can be no reliable basis for assuming good laws and decisions will be made in our democracy for the many, not just the few.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>16. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations</b></p>	<p>←</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current Constitution is incapable of giving Australians confidence in their parliaments, governments or courts because it does not set down the terms on which trust in elections is or may be handed over. Elected parliaments and governments are therefore exercising power entirely on their own terms which they are not obliged to shape in the interests of justice, fairness or Australians themselves. They are certainly not required to consider future generations.</li> <li>The Constitution does not even attempt to describe the public interest let alone bind parliament and governments to act in accordance with it.</li> <li><b>Conclusion: For as long as the Australian Constitution contains no terms of trust on which power may be safely handed over in elections there can be no confidence in any of the institutions empowered under it to act fairly and justly in accordance with good laws made in the agreed public interest.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>17. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world</b></p>	<p>←</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia's Constitution acts as a formidable barrier to any efforts to broker for and achieve international peace. No treaties (international laws) to which we are a party (such as those for climate change, human rights and obligations, or nuclear weapons and waste) are enforceable in Australia unless they are encoded into <i>and maintained</i> in legislation. This applies even if the parliament has ratified those treaties. Parliaments are free not to make human rights laws and to revoke them as they wish.</li> <li><b>Conclusion: For as long as the Constitution fails to oblige governments to comply in the domestic sphere with laws it has signed onto in the international sphere, Australian governments will be free to continue to act irresponsibly and to contravene international laws, regardless of whether that is in the public or national interest.</b></li> </ul>

## Question 6 – Would a new People’s Constitution propel Australia towards or away from the Vision for *Australia Together*?

In **Table 1** above it is evident that the current Constitution is incapable of helping Australians make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality because it is silent on Australian values, human rights, and the obligations to Australians that parliaments and governments must observe once elected. This silence makes it lawful for parliaments and governments to act in ways that are contrary to the public and national interest. To remedy this Australians must state in law what the public and national interest is. And they can do this with a new form of Constitution – a People’s Constitution.

In a People’s Constitution Australians can insert their own statements about their values, human rights and the obligations of governments to them. They can also confer on themselves a right to have a voice in how the nation should chart a course to a better future – one consistent with their values. Once these are inserted into the Constitution they can function to define the public and national interest as follows:

- **Australian values can succinctly describe the *national* interest** because they encapsulate what we wish to protect and foster about our country, political system and society.
- **Human rights (including a right to a voice in democracy about the nation’s future) describe in detail the *public* interest** because they are fundamental to the interests of any and all individuals who might seek to be members of a democratic state – since a state is not a democracy if its citizens have no rights.
- **The obligations of governments describe what must be done by the state in accordance with the public and national interest** that has been expressed by Australians in the form of our national values, human rights and any statements or plans we might make about our preferred future.

**With the public and national interest thus defined as Australians prefer, voters will for the first time be able to see whether parliaments and governments are developing laws and policies which actually align with our values and are taking the nation in the direction we have said we want to go.** Statements of Australian values, human rights and obligations in the Constitution will also make it possible for Australians to form much better relationships with whomever we elect because it will:

- set out terms of trust on which we are handing over power to make laws and decisions; and
- empower Australians to work with parliaments and governments to describe and build their preferred future.

**In particular, the inclusion of a statement of Australian values in the Constitution would inspire all members of our democracy to work together with parliaments and governments to build long term, integrated plans for the nation that are capable of ensuring we can actually live those values.** This is in fact where the Vision for *Australia Together* comes from and where it comes into its own. Once we have stated our values as a nation, we can easily devise a statement about the sort of nation and future we want to build together and we can use this to work with governments to chart a safe course to that preferred future.

**Only a People’s Constitution, which is structured to include statements of our values and rights and the obligations of governments, can position Australians to build and confirm their preferred Vision for *Australia Together* and safely make it a reality.**

**Table 2** below shows how the draft Vision for *Australia Together* is closely aligned with and supportive of the values Australians have espoused for their nation in surveys and research during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For a full report on research findings about 21<sup>st</sup> century Australian values see [Chapter 5 of The People's Constitution](#). If Australians confirm in a new Constitution that the values on the left side of **Table 2** are indeed their national values, then the Vision for *Australia Together* is well placed to help them ensure they can live those values.

**Conclusion: If Australians reverse the silence of their Constitution on Australian values, human rights, and the obligations to Australians that parliaments and governments must observe once elected, they can position themselves to build a future for Australia that they value and want. Whereas the current Constitution provides no basis for Australians to participate in their democracy in a manner sufficient to ensure their values, rights and interests will be honoured by governments, a People's Constitution offers everyone an effective way to establish terms of trust and productive collaborations with those we elect that are capable of making our preferred future a reality.**

## Question 7 – How is the Vision for *Australia Together* aligned with what Australians value and want?

In Chapter 5 of [The People's Constitution: the path to empowerment of Australians in a 21<sup>st</sup> century democracy](#), author Bronwyn Kelly detailed the findings of research on what Australians have said they value and want for themselves and their nation whenever they have been asked about that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This enabled development of a draft **Statement of Australian Values** which would be suitable for insertion in the Constitution as a justiciable section, either in a new preamble or in a new chapter setting out the rights and rightful types of power for the people of Australia in their own democracy.

Inclusion of such a statement in the Constitution would, for the first time, place the people of Australia at the centre of their Constitution and make clear their purpose on coming together and staying together as a nation. Without a statement of national values, the Constitution can offer no guidance to parliaments and governments as to that purpose. This purpose must be explicit in any Constitution if citizens are to be able to use their democracy to guide good law and policymaking in the public and national interest. An extract of the draft Statement of Australian Values is provided below.

### The draft Statement of Australian Values for insertion in Australia's Constitution

Extract from Chapter 5 of [The People's Constitution](#).

#### **Statement of Australian Values (draft for community engagement)**

We the people of Australia are at one in this our Sovereign Will to chart a course to a future where peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all in a manner consistent with the preeminent value we place on:

- the safety of all members of the nation and the stability, security and cohesion of society as a whole;
- honesty, integrity and ethics in all relationships, in governance and in corporate responsibility;
- creation and maintenance of a fully inclusive, participatory democracy which exhibits openness, transparency and respect for the voices of all Australians in matters of policy and governance;

- universal human rights;
- social harmony and appreciation of diversity;
- Australia's First Nations particularly in relation to:
  - our recognition of their rightful and essential place at the Heart of the nation's past, present and future,
  - truth-telling on the history of colonisation and the violence and injustice of their dispossession,
  - Makarrata, reconciliation with and just treaty between First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians,
  - celebration of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,
  - our acknowledgement of their ancestral tie to the land and the sovereignty that arises from that as coexistent with the sovereignty of all Australians, and, consequent on that acknowledgement,
  - the equal right of First Nations alongside all Australians to their own Voice in the Constitution;
- equality and egalitarianism – in ensuring wellbeing and in respect for all regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, national or ethnic origin, cultural heritage, religious persuasion or secularity, or wealth;
- benevolence and compassion for those close to us, for distant communities and for refugees;
- equal opportunity for all;
- social justice – meaning fair outcomes for all, fair sharing of national wealth, fair sharing of the burden and benefit of taxation, fair access to services, and equality before the law;
- life-long health, including physical, mental and societal health and happiness;
- life-long accessibility of education;
- life-long opportunity for expansion of the mind and human creative capacity;
- scientific intelligence and research capacity;
- unobstructed access to public information and protection of privacy and personal information;
- information markets that are properly regulated for the purpose of promotion of truth;
- national resilience, preparedness for crises and capacity to avert preventable crises;
- protection of the natural environment and conservation of natural resources;
- the planet, its ecosystems and species diversity;
- future generations and intergenerational equity;
- freedom of speech, expression, information, peaceful assembly and association, protest, choice in life path and partner, travel, belief, religion, secularity and atheism, political communication, freedom of the press, and freedom from discrimination, unlawful or arbitrary detention, political persecution, fear and want;
- the contributions and dignity of everyone, regardless of employment status, disability and working life stage;
- the formation and ongoing support of a human-centred economy capable of providing continuous full employment and opportunities for meaningful work and life satisfaction;
- the formation and ongoing support of an environmentally sustainable economy capable of ensuring proper conservation of scarce natural resources;
- fairness and ethics in foreign and domestic trade and finance;
- decency, humanity, cooperation and integrity in our international citizenry;
- independence in national sovereignty; and
- self-determination through a voice in our own governance.

**Table 2** below takes the above list of Australian values and shows how the Vision for *Australia Together* would help everyone live those values. If we can make the Vision a reality then everything Australians have said they value and want will be more secure.

**How to read Table 2** – The left-hand column simply sets out the full text of the draft of Australian Values. The right-hand column shows which elements of the Vision for *Australia Together* are aligned with and supportive of each value listed on the left. It is important to note that no element of the Vision is at odds with any of the listed values.

It is also interesting to note that there is only one value – that relating to First Nations – which is aligned with all 17 elements of the Vision, meaning that Australians will need to strive towards all 17 elements of the Vision if we are to be able to claim genuinely that we are living that value. This implies that the need for fair and just reconciliation between First Nations peoples, the non-Indigenous people of Australia, and the state (the Crown) is central to and significantly affects every aspect of our preferred future and that Australians would gain much by honestly settling the issue of the dispossession of First Nations and the question of just arrangements for sovereignty. Clearly this is central to our chances of becoming a democracy of political equals and realising every other element of the *Vision for Australia Together*.

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<p>We the people of Australia are at one in this our Sovereign Will to chart a course to a future where <b>peace prevails and the common wellbeing is secured for all</b> in a manner consistent with the preeminent value we place on:</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">6</td> <td>Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Vital services are fully accessible for all.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</td> </tr> </table>	6	Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.	7	Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.	8	Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.	9	Vital services are fully accessible for all.	10	Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.	11	National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.	12	Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.	14	Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.	15	Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.	16	We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.	17	We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
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<b><i>If we value this ...</i></b>	<b><i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the safety of all members of the nation and the stability, security and cohesion of society as a whole;</li> </ul>	<p>1 We are all safe.</p> <p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>6 Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>14 Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p> <p>17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creation and maintenance of a fully inclusive, participatory democracy which exhibits openness, transparency and respect for the voices of all Australians in matters of policy and governance;</li> </ul>	<p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• universal human rights;</li> </ul>	<p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>6 Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p>



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	17	We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social harmony and appreciation of diversity;</li> </ul>	2	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.
	3	Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.
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<i>If we value this ...</i>	<i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i>	
	2 3 5 7 8 9 10 12 13 16 17	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life. We act together as a compassionate society. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. Vital services are fully accessible for all. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone. As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>equal opportunity for all;</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 12	We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We act together as a compassionate society. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. Vital services are fully accessible for all. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>life-long health, including physical, mental and societal health and happiness;</li> </ul>	1 2 4 5 8 9 11	We are all safe. We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We act together as a compassionate society. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. Vital services are fully accessible for all. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• life-long accessibility of education;</li> </ul>	<p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>6 Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• life-long opportunity for expansion of the mind and human creative capacity;</li> </ul>	<p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>scientific intelligence and research capacity;</li> </ul>	<p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>13 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>14 Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p> <p>17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unobstructed access to public information and protection of privacy and personal information;</li> </ul>	<p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p>

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<b>How is the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligned with Australian Values?</b>	
<b>Australian Values as expressed in the research of Australian opinion documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i>.</b>	<b>Elements of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligning with and supporting the Values documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i>.</b>
<b><i>If we value this ...</i></b>	<b><i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i></b>
	16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information markets that are properly regulated for the purpose of promotion of truth;</li> </ul>	4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing. 8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. 9 Vital services are fully accessible for all. 11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared. 12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone. 15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals. 16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>national resilience, preparedness for crises and capacity to avert preventable crises;</li> </ul>	1 We are all safe. 2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination. 5 We act together as a compassionate society. 8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. 9 Vital services are fully accessible for all. 10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared. 12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone. 13 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society. 14 Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival. 16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations. 17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.

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<b><i>If we value this ...</i></b>	<b><i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protection of the natural environment and conservation of natural resources;</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 We are all safe.</li> <li>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</li> <li>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</li> <li>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</li> <li>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</li> <li>10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</li> <li>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</li> <li>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</li> <li>13 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</li> <li>14 Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</li> <li>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</li> <li>17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the planet, its ecosystems and species diversity;</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 We are all safe.</li> <li>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</li> <li>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</li> <li>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</li> <li>10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</li> <li>11 National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</li> <li>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</li> <li>13 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</li> <li>14 Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</li> <li>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</li> </ol>



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Australian Values as expressed in the research of Australian opinion documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i> .	Elements of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> aligning with and supporting the Values documented in <i>The People's Constitution</i> .	
<i>If we value this ...</i>	<i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i>	
	16  17	We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.  We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>future generations and intergenerational equity;</li> </ul>	1 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	We are all safe. We act together as a compassionate society. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice. Vital services are fully accessible for all. Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared. National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared. Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone. As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society. Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival. Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals. We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations. We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>freedom of speech, expression, information, peaceful assembly and association, protest, choice in life path and partner, travel, belief, religion, secularity and atheism, political communication, freedom of the press, and freedom from discrimination, unlawful or arbitrary detention, political persecution, fear and want;</li> </ul>	1 3 4 5 6 7 8	We are all safe. Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life. We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We act together as a compassionate society. Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress. Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society. Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the contributions and dignity of everyone, regardless of employment status, disability and working life stage;</li> </ul>	<p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>6 Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>9 Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>12 Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the formation and ongoing support of a human-centred economy capable of providing continuous full employment and opportunities for meaningful work and life satisfaction;</li> </ul>	<p>1 We are all safe.</p> <p>3 Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>4 We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>6 Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through</p>

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<i>If we value this ...</i>	<i>... then in our society, environment, economy, or democracy we would want to be striving towards this ...</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> </ul>	<p>unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</p> <p>Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the formation and ongoing support of an environmentally sustainable economy capable of ensuring proper conservation of scarce natural resources;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1</li> <li>2</li> <li>8</li> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>16</li> </ul>	<p>We are all safe.</p> <p>We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>Vital services are fully accessible for all.</p> <p>Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</p> <p>We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fairness and ethics in foreign and domestic trade and finance;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> </ul>	<p>Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>National wealth is fairly raised and fairly shared.</p> <p>Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards, wellbeing and security for everyone.</p> <p>As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decency, humanity, cooperation and integrity in our international citizenry;</li> </ul>	<p>1 We are all safe.</p> <p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p> <p>5 We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>7 Diversity is positively appreciated as the basis for a successful Australian society.</p> <p>8 Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>10 Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>13 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p> <p>17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independence in national sovereignty; and</li> </ul>	<p>1 We are all safe.</p> <p>12 As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>15 Democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community of political equals.</p> <p>16 We can confidently trust our parliaments, governments, and courts to act fairly and justly in accordance with the rights and interests of the public and future generations.</p> <p>17 We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safe, peaceful and united world.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• self-determination through a voice in our own governance.</li> </ul>	<p>2 We have achieved a lasting reconciliation between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, based on our shared values of justice and self-determination.</p>

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**Note:** ACFP maintains that a People's Constitution requires insertion of human rights and government obligations into the current Constitution, as well as national values like those listed above. It also requires an additional right of the people to a Voice in how the nation should chart a course to a better future.

*The People's Constitution* includes drafts of constitutional amendments useful in community engagement on these additions. Extracts of these suggested constitutional amendments are provided in this [fact sheet](#):

[\*\*\*The People's Constitution – Three proposed amendments to the Constitution: Values, Rights and Voices.\*\*\*](#)

The screenshot shows a webpage from Australian Community Futures Planning (ACFP). The main heading is "The People's Constitution – Three proposed amendments to the Constitution: Values, Rights and Voices". Below this, it lists "Starting drafts for community engagement" and provides a list of three drafts: 1. a new preamble featuring a Statement of Australian Values; 2. a National Agreement on Human Rights and Obligations; and 3. an enshrined constitutional process for expression of the National People's Voice. There is also a "Contents" section with a table of contents listing extracts from chapters 5, 6, and 7.

**Further questions may be forwarded to ACFP at [info@austcfp.com.au](mailto:info@austcfp.com.au)**  
**Become involved in building a plan for a better Australia at the ACFP: [www.austcfp.com.au](http://www.austcfp.com.au)**