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RACE HAS NO PLACE IN THE CONSTITUTION

"The Coalition government's decision to reject the divisive indigenous-only 'voice to parliament' is a win for equality and liberal democracy," said Simon Breheny, Director of Policy at the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"The decision made by the government today affirms the democratic values on which Australia was founded. The Australian Constitution should treat all Australian citizens as individual human beings, with equal rights and equal responsibilities."

"The Coalition government's decision represents a repudiation of a divisive ideology based on race. Race has no place in the Australian Constitution."

"The next logical step for the government is to reject outright constitutional recognition. Recognition is not supported by indigenous or non-indigenous Australians."

"If the Coalition chooses to pursue any changes it should remove the provisions that currently refer to race - section 25, and section 51 (xxvi)," said Mr Breheny.

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