



Path to Treaty Bill 2023

ISSUES PAPER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Path to Treaty is a negotiation process between the Queensland Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. We want to hear the views and suggestions of First Nations Peoples and non-Indigenous Queenslanders on the next steps along the Path to Treaty.

Ms Corrine McMillan MP, Chair and Member for Mansfield

The Community Support and Services inquiry into the Bill

On 22 February 2023 the Queensland Premier introduced the Path to Treaty Bill into the Queensland Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Community Support and Services Committee for detailed consideration.

The Community Support and Services Committee are holding public hearings and forums during March and April 2023 in Brisbane and regional communities in Queensland to hear from and talk to community.

The Community Support and Services Committee will report to the Legislative Assembly on Friday 21 April 2023.

The Path to Treaty is a negotiation process undertaken by the Queensland Government and Queensland's First Nations Peoples towards a treaty or treaties that will reframe and strengthen the relationship.

This Bill and the Queensland Path to Treaty is a separate process from the Australian Government's Voice to Parliament and the referendum for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This Bill and the Path to Treaty process in Queensland is designed to be consistent with, and parallel to, the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its themes of Voice, Treaty and Truth.

The objectives of the Path to Treaty Bill are to establish treaty structures:

- a First Nations Treaty Institute to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to develop and provide a framework to prepare for and then commence treaty negotiations with the Queensland Government
- an independent Treaty Institute Council to govern the Institute in the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry to inquire into, report on and promote community awareness of the impacts and effects of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and provide a platform for people to tell their truth.

The Bill sets out the main principles for administering the Path to Treaty Act:

- in partnership and good faith, the rights and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are acknowledged and respected in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* and the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- the importance of self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to be able to give free, prior and informed consent as part of treaty negotiations and the making of a treaty
- the importance of respecting and protecting Aboriginal law, Aboriginal tradition, Torres Strait Islander law and *Ailan Kastom*, and
- the importance of equality and non-discrimination.

Issues for consideration

Does Queensland need a treaty?

What could a treaty involve?

Who should be involved in making a treaty?

Is truth-telling and healing an important step in the treaty process?

How should the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry be conducted to ensure it is helping the healing process?

What issues should be included in the terms of reference for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry?

Do you think truth-telling sessions, hearings and research about the impacts and effects of colonisation will improve the wider community's awareness and understanding of First Nations Peoples in the history of Queensland?

Are the principles for administering the Path to Treaty Act sufficient?

How should First Nations Peoples be represented on the Treaty Institute Council?

What support should be available for First Nations Peoples to be ready for treaty negotiations?

Treaty making in other Australian states and territories

No First Nations Treaty has yet been finalised under a treaty process in any Australian state or territory.

Victoria, the Northern Territory and South Australia have commenced treaty making processes.

How to contribute to the inquiry

The committee welcomes public participation. Have your say by writing to the committee in a submission or by coming to one of the committee's public forums.

Provide a submission

The committee invites submissions on the Bill. Make a submission online: bit.ly/PathtoTreaty-Submission.

General guidelines on making submissions are available from the committee's webpage: bit.ly/QldParl-MakingASubmission.

Attend the committee's public forums

Cairns	Monday, 20 March 2023	9:00am - 11:00am
Weipa	Monday, 20 March 2023	2:30pm - 4:30pm
Thursday Island	Tuesday, 21 March 2023	9:00am - 11:00am
Palm Island	Wednesday, 22 March 2023	9:30am - 11:00am
Townsville	Wednesday, 22 March 2023	3:00pm - 5:00pm
Longreach	Thursday, 23 March 2023	12:00pm - 2:30pm
Woorabinda	Friday, 24 March 2023	10:00am - 11:30am
Rockhampton	Friday, 24 March 2023	3:00pm - 5:00pm
Inala	Monday, 17 April 2023	9:30am - 11:00am

The committee is holding public forums about the Bill and all stakeholders and interested parties are welcome to attend. If you would be interested in giving evidence at a public forum, you can attend at any one of the locations via the committee's inquiry webpage: bit.ly/PathtoTreaty.

Keep informed about the inquiry

You can subscribe to receive regular email updates about the committee and the inquiry or register as a stakeholder: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Visit-and-learn/Have-Your-Say/Subscribe.

Check the inquiry webpage for details: bit.ly/PathtoTreaty.

FIND OUT MORE



Community Support and Services Committee
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www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/cssc