

## Path to Treaty Bill 2023

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Community Support and Services Committee](#)  
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I am writing in reference to the Community Yarning Session, to be held in Townsville on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

I believe these Yarning Sessions are designed to ensure that community members voices are heard and included.

In the advent of not being able to have my voice heard on the day, I would like to submit my thoughts in writing.

From my limited legal knowledge, I understand that a treaty is essentially an agreement between parties on certain responsibilities and duties which are legally binding.

Given the above, I would like to submit my thoughts on what I would like to treaty to contain, in terms of the article(s) that describe what the parties have agreed upon.

**Sovereignty.** Aboriginal people have at no time ceded, relinquished or acquiesced any part of our sovereign existence and status. As such, I would like the terms of the treaty to acknowledge recognition that we have remained sovereign people and that there are ongoing dimensions of this sovereignty. I believe this to be imperative to the scope of our sovereignty so that we can be truly self-determining.

**Truth-Telling.** That there be recognition of the past, in terms of what has happened to Aboriginal people ("truth-telling"), and that Australia was invaded and not colonised.

**Voice.** That the Queensland Government follow in the steps of the Commonwealth and ensures a guaranteed voice to parliament. I believe this to be an 'insurance policy' at putting Aboriginal interests at the forefront of Aboriginal policy.

**Reforms.** That the treaty agrees to a set of reforms at reaching a more just society for Aboriginal people and account for Aboriginal dispossession.

**Statutory entitlements.** That the treaty includes reparation, compensation (e.g. for land taken or sites destroyed).

Regards

Gladys Willis