

Path to Treaty Bill 2023

Submission No:	38
Submitted by:	<div></div>
Publication:	Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Tracks To treaty Submission

Recently I attended the Community Support and Services Committee meeting on Monday 20th March 2023 in Cairns.

At the committee meeting I raised the issue as part of the Treaty Process the Queensland Government should also establish a Voice to Queensland Parliament. I see a First Nations Consultative Committee has been established to develop an Indigenous Voice preferred model for Queensland. Whilst I fully support the proposal of an Indigenous Voice to Queensland Parliament, May I suggest an Indigenous Voice at all levels of Government including Local Government.

This would allow communities like Cairns that have a large indigenous population be involved in affective decision make process that impact on Indigenous people. I realise that Cairns Regional Council has an Indigenous advisory body, but I have to question how effective they area if they are not sitting at the Table when discussing Indigenous issues.

This would also support and contribute to the self determination process.

I would also suggest that Treaty and Truth Telling be implemented at the local government level. If an Indigenous group has been granted Native title, then that is the group that the Council would enter a treaty with. If this is implemented across all local government areas, then this is the group that the Queensland Government enter a treaty with. because the question has been asked "Who does the Queensland Government enter Treaty with"

Like wise with Truth Telling. Truth Telling should be also based on a local government level to give it authenticity. With so many Traditional Owner groups in Queensland, the Truth Telling process becomes generalised. Because we know every group has a story to tell about the impact of colonisation and life before colonisation. This Localises the truth Telling Process.

I would also suggest that the Queensland Government consider maybe regional treaties, such as treaties with the region of Cape York, A north-western group, North Queensland. Central Queensland group etc.

An elected spokesperson from each of the regional groups would be the signatory to the Main Treaty Document with the Queensland Government. This would simplify the process rather than trying to enter into a treaty with every traditional owner group or developing a generalised treaty which I think many traditional owners group would not agree too.

I am unsure if the Queensland Government Can Mandate Local Government to implement these changes, but worth consideration.