



Speech by

**Hon. LIDDY CLARK**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Hansard 22 April 2004

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Government Jet, Alcohol**

**Hon. E. A. CLARK** (Clayfield—ALP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy) (4.34 p.m.), by leave: Today I can say that it is time to get on with the business. The Crime and Misconduct Commission has delivered its verdict on its investigation into events involving the Lockhart River wine matter. There was no misconduct and police found there are no charges to be laid. This has been a difficult time for me personally, for my family, for my constituents, for my staff and for this portfolio.

I have never lost sight of the fact that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy is now a stand-alone portfolio, and we have a job to be getting on with. Over the next three years we will be getting on with the business of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to improve their quality of life and give them the respect and recognition of their culture that they so richly deserve. We have listened and we have heard the concerns of many people through the Cape York justice study. I continue to listen and to hear their concerns and the concerns of all Aboriginal and Torres Islander Queenslanders every day. I feel very privileged.

We are working on one of the toughest and most important tasks in Australia's history. We are dealing with the mistakes and the misunderstandings of more than 100 years. Even working together, we are not going to put it right in three years or 10. We are taking these hard but necessary first steps. We have wasted enough time on politics. It is time to get on with the job.