




Speech by

Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

MUNDINGBURRA ELECTORATE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (3.34 pm): This year marks 50 years of Indigenous voting in this country. My seat of Mundingburra has a proud connection with our first people. In the 2011 census 5.7 per cent of my electorate were Indigenous. Across the country about 2.5 per cent of the population is Indigenous. We have a very strong connection with our first people. I know the member for Thuringowa shares similar views. I believe the percentage of Indigenous people in the Thuringowa electorate is a little more.

The Mundingburra electorate is also home to Gail Mabo, the daughter of Eddie, who in June celebrated the 20th anniversary of her father's case. We are also home to an organisation by the name of Yumba Meta. It is an Indigenous housing corporation which assists in providing low-cost housing to those in need. I have had a great relationship over the years with both Dushy Thangiah the CEO and Ernie Hoolihan the chairman of that organisation. I pay tribute to the great way they have conducted themselves over the years.

While it was not until three years after the 1962 milestone that Queensland gave the right to vote to our Indigenous people, this state can be proud of the steps forward which have been taken. In 1974 Eric Deeral was the first Indigenous person elected to parliament. This morning the Minister for Health spoke very proudly about the fact that this was achieved with no quota system, no tokenism—he was just a man wanting to serve the people of Cook.

But more needs to be done. I look forward to working to address the problems affecting the Indigenous residents in my community. As Minister for Local Government, I pledge to work with people like Palm Island Mayor, Alf Lacey, to ensure North Queensland can lead the way in this regard. This government will deliver for our Indigenous people by empowering local communities.