



Speech By  
**Hon. Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2013

**SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

**Papua New Guinea, Partnership**

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, you can hardly have a stronger international ally than someone who barracks for Queensland during the State of Origin. Not only does Papua New Guinea share our passion for football, but we now also share a stronger commitment between our parliaments, as recognised formally in a new parliamentary partnership agreement signed in Port Moresby on 25 September 2013.

As members know, the ties between Queensland and our closest overseas neighbour and long-term friend in Papua New Guinea go well back in history. We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude for how they looked after our troops during the tough years of war. However, we also have a shared future with great opportunity and mutual benefit. The government and business relationships have been strong and we have been working to strengthen our parliament's relationship.

I was honoured to formalise our partnership agreement with the Papua New Guinea parliament and Speaker Theo Zurenouc last month. I acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues who were present at this ceremony—Michael Crandon, member for Coomera; Dale Shuttleworth, member for Ferny Grove; and Trevor Ruthenberg, member for Kallangur—who grew up in PNG and who knew the PNG Speaker as a young man. I also thank the officers of the parliament who have been assisting with this partnership: Mr Michael Ries, the Deputy Clerk; and Mr Rob Hansen, the research director for the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

Members will find on their desks a commemorative brochure, produced by my office and the parliament's Community Engagement area, to mark the occasion. We have also produced a short documentary video of the occasion which is available on the Speaker of the Queensland parliament's Vimeo account and Facebook page. I table the associated travel report on the visit.

*Tabled paper:* Overseas travel report: Report on an overseas visit by Madam Speaker to the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for a Parliamentary Partnership Agreement, September 2013 [[3755](#)]