




Speech By
Hon. Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Suffrage Petitions

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday I had the great pleasure to launch an online database of Queensland's historic women's suffrage petitions. In the 1890s separate petitions were circulated through the colony in support of granting voting rights to Queensland women. These were signed by thousands of Queenslanders—both women and men—and led to women's suffrage being achieved in 1905. Queensland has the distinction of being the third jurisdiction in the world where women achieved the right to vote and these petitions greatly contributed to Queensland's democratic journey. Over the last few years an ongoing historic project has seen these original petitions that were tabled in the Queensland parliament digitally transcribed, with all of the names of the signatories then entered into a searchable database. The project was organised as a partnership between the late Dr John McCulloch, Dr Deborah Jordan and the Queensland parliament, with the contribution of the Queensland Family History Society. This fascinating database is now published on the Queensland parliament's website and available to the public to search. I encourage all Queenslanders to search the database to find out whether their ancestors signed one of these petitions. I congratulate all who were involved with this project, including parliamentary staff from the chamber, education and communications section and Information Technology Services. The launch here at Parliament House yesterday was a wonderful event and I particularly thank Kate Philipson, Roylene Mills and Kalimna Kane for their splendid organisational work.