



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

## ADJOURNMENT

### Darumbal People, Native Title

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.34 pm): Gudamulli, Mr Speaker! ‘Gudamulli’ of course means hello in Darumbal language, the traditional owners of the land which I represent in this place. Tuesday, 21 June 2016 was an historic day for the Darumbal people and also for Central Queensland. It was an honour and privilege to witness the native title rights of the Darumbal people formally recognised at a session of the Federal Court in Rockhampton—all past, present and future generations and the Darumbal people’s continued connection to their traditional homelands. June’s native title determination acknowledges that the Darumbal people have been connected to these lands since before sovereignty, and it means their undeniable connection to their traditional homelands can continue on. The Darumbal people have worked for over 23 years on this native title claim. The Commonwealth Shoalwater Bay commission of inquiry into sandmining in the Shoalwater Bay military training area and Byfield to its south provided an initial impetus for Darumbal people to meet and discuss preparing a native title claim in 1993.

Congratulations to native title applicants Mr Doug Hatfield, Ms Pauline Cora, Mr Warren Malone, Mr Rodney Mann, Ms Amanda Meredith, Ms Vanessa Ross and to all of the Darumbal people, other respondents and the Federal Court for the diligence and spirit of cooperation required to achieve such a wonderful outcome. Uncle Bob Blair told me a story a few days after the determination which I think is a great example of just how important this determination was for all Darumbal people, even the young ones. Uncle Bob Blair told me about a group of young Darumbal children who were playing at the Dreamtime Centre on the day of the determination. Their mother called out and told them it was time to go home. The children smiled and told their mother that, as a matter of fact, they would not be going home any time soon because, ‘Mum, we just got our land back!’

Good spirit and celebrations continued on from the native title determination into NAIDOC Week in July. I attended the flag-raising ceremony at Yeppoon and the NAIDOC march at Emu Park. It was great to see numbers in the march up on last year. We were also treated to a wonderful re-enactment of King O’Malley and Coowonga, a great story of comradery and compassion involving an Aboriginal man who nursed a sick O’Malley back to health. The amazing Darumbal dancers entertained us all, and it was an honour to be asked to join in on the dancing. Congratulations to Aunty Sally, Uncle Billy Mann and all of the elders and team who organised yet another amazing NAIDOC Week at Emu Park. Thank you also for the very special gumbi gumbi tree which I have already planted in my yard. I am looking forward to trying the leaves as a tea.

Following on from NAIDOC Week I met with Aunty Nicky Hatfield, Aunty Sally Vea Vea, Malcolm Mann and Khristina Hatfield to talk about ways we can work together to promote our region’s Indigenous history. Each time I learn more amazing things—and some very sad things—about our region’s history. We must share these stories more amongst our broader community and with visitors to the region. I look forward to continuing to work with the traditional owners—and now native title holders—in Keppel. Yadaba!