




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Wotton v State of Queensland

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.53 am): I can update the House today on the Wotton v State of Queensland case, being the Palm Island class action case. As per the 2016 Federal Court ruling, the parties have now agreed on a settlement scheme and an apology subject to the court's approval.

In December 2016 in the Federal Court Justice Mortimer found in favour of Lex, Cecilia and Agnes Wotton and ruled that the conduct of certain QPS officers in 2004 contravened section 9(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and that the actions of certain police were found to be unlawful. The parties have now agreed on a \$30 million settlement scheme for 447 claimants including interest, applicants' legal costs and administrative costs, and the delivery of an apology. This does not include the original three claimants who already had orders made in their favour.

This agreement is still subject to court approval and I cannot pre-empt that formal ratification. Lawyers for the Palm Island community have now been directed to hold two public meetings this month in Townsville and Palm Island to explain details of the proposed settlement to claimants. The application for approval of the settlement will be heard on 15 June in Townsville, but assuming the court approves the settlement I know that all parties involved hope it will provide some measure of closure and a way forward for the community of Palm Island. The Palaszczuk government looks forward to continuing to work closely with the community as we move forward together.