




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.02 am): Last year during NAIDOC Week 2019 the Queensland government reaffirmed its commitment to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. I would like to acknowledge the Premier's leadership in committing to this reframed relationship with First Nation Queenslanders through the Path to Treaty. Progressing the Path to Treaty signals the importance of learning about our state's shared history and respectfully acknowledging the past. Equally, it is our opportunity to celebrate and embrace the unique contributions of First Nation people and to create a shared future which truly enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to thrive.

I acknowledge that this is just the beginning of a lengthy but important process that will benefit all Queenslanders. I am proud to see the recommendations and report of the Eminent Panel and treaty working group tabled by the Premier today along with the Queensland government treaty statement of commitment and response. I want to acknowledge the members of the Eminent Panel, the treaty working group and the Indigenous mayors who are in the gallery with us here today. In line with the recommendations, and in recognition of what was heard from Queenslanders through consultation last year, the response commits to proceeding on this historic Path to Treaty.

As a key next step, a treaty advancement committee will be established to provide expert advice and guidance on options for the implementation of recommendations. Recommendations such as establishing a First Nation treaty institute will be subject to further government consideration in 2021 when the committee reports back. The committee will consider and provide advice on the important elements of treaty: a truth and healing process, nation-building, capability-building and operational costs. The committee will also seek to maintain a momentum for Path to Treaty discussions across Queensland, including overseeing community and stakeholder engagement and research and partnership opportunities.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Eminent Panel and the treaty working group for this historic report and for supporting Queenslanders to begin this journey together. I also want to thank and acknowledge the member for South Brisbane for the work she did whilst minister and the support of the member for Bundamba, the member for Cook, and the minister and member for Algeester for their passion, guidance and assistance. I also want to thank the team within the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for supporting this process and helping to make treaty a reality for Queensland. In closing, I want to thank my policy adviser, Katie Kiss. Mr Speaker, you should see the shoes she is wearing today: they are truly deadly.

I look forward to being part of a government that is progressing this initiative to address the wrongs of the past and lead us towards a brighter future together founded on truth.