



Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **National Reconciliation Week**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.07 am): Today marks the beginning of National Reconciliation Week 2021. Reconciliation is about recognising a shared past and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians. This year marks almost 30 years since our country's formal reconciliation process began and 2021 is also the 20th anniversary of Reconciliation Australia. Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians to strengthen and broaden their relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's Reconciliation Week theme is 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action'. It is about encouraging the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action. It is about encouraging every Australian, every government, every part of society and corporate Australia to play their part in facilitating reconciliation to understand the ancient cultural fabric of the land they now call home; to understand the devastating impacts of colonisation on the two oldest living cultures on the planet and, where possible, to undo those impacts; and to build a nation that collectively values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and contribution.

The Palaszczuk government's Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan, RAP, outlines the actions we seek to achieve to support greater reconciliation across our state and across government. In September 2020, we saw the Parliamentary Service advance their commitment to reconciliation, from reporting their activities in their annual reports to formalising them as measurable goals in a RAP. I commend you, Mr Speaker, the Clerk and the Parliamentary Service for that work.

This week also commemorates the two significant milestones in our national reconciliation journey: the successful 1967 referendum on 27 May which saw the majority of Australians take decisive action by voting 'yes' to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the national census, and the 1992 High Court Mabo decision on 3 June which resulted in common law recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's connection to land and waters and the introduction of the Native Title Act.

Right now in Queensland we are witnessing another historic movement: significantly progressing Queensland's Path to Treaty—one of the strongest reconciliation actions in our state's history. Path to Treaty builds upon calls from generations of First Nations people for a treaty and brings us closer to a more inclusive and just future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The Treaty Advancement Committee right now is building on the work already done by the Eminent Panel and the Treaty Working Group and they continue to work extremely hard to progress this.

Path to Treaty is about facing the full history of our state—a story that is more than 60,000 years old and steeped in ancient culture. We must work together to truly reconcile our past with our present—a path that can only be built on a foundation of mutual respect, agreement and truth telling. This evening

I will be joined by Reconciliation Australia CEO Karen Mundine, elders, traditional owners and businesses as we launch Reconciliation Week, and I look forward to seeing members of the House there. Reconciliation is everybody's business every day.