



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Voice to Parliament**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.32 am): Unlike those opposite, I rise to speak to support this motion because I am proud to support the Voice to Parliament. Today is an opportunity for all MPs here and all parties represented to put politics aside and come together to support an important reform for our nation.

Let us reflect. The Voice came from Uluru, a statement to the heart from the heart. The Voice is an invitation from First Nations people to all Australian people, an invitation to walk with them and to make meaningful change. This is a grand nation. This is a grand gesture from the First Nations people of this country. It is First Nations people who have taken the initiative to try to heal our nation from the consequences of colonisation and the dispossession, the mistakes and the damage that was inflicted upon them. This is an act of extraordinary grace and good faith from First Nations people. They are extending a hand of friendship and a hand of reform.

Like many members and like many Queenslanders I had hoped that this would be a straightforward matter. All we have to do is say yes—yes to truth, yes to reconciliation, yes to the Voice. Sadly, in the last few days, what should be a simple matter of ‘yes’ has become much more complicated because the federal National Party has made the decision to oppose the Voice, led by its Queensland leader, David Littleproud, and following in the footsteps of its federal LNP leader, another Queensland, Peter Dutton, who opposed the apology to the stolen generations. David Littleproud is cut from the same cloth. Make no mistake: this is an awful, mean-spirited, hurtful decision. It would appear to be a misguided effort to stoke the right wing of politics in this country and the right wing of the National Party, a cheap stunt to attract votes. It is a decision unbecoming of the party of the late Tim Fischer, a man who fought the extreme right, a man who could recognise that the national interest should surpass political interest. What a terrible shame. It is an opportunity lost, but one thrown away, cheaply discarded by the National Party.

The last thing that we wanted was this debate. Can I say this: we cannot ignore the National Party. It is an affiliate of the Liberal National Party here. The State Council of the Liberal National Party itself voted to oppose the Voice. What was the position of the Leader of the Opposition? He ran away. Weak, indecisive, he ran away today to his eternal shame.