




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

MOTION

Voice to Parliament

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.48 am): I would like to refer to the contribution made earlier by the member for Mirani. I think he made a very good point in saying that he had just been on the phone to the Indigenous communities in his electorate and they said they were not aware of the implications of this proposal. It seems they are as in the dark about it as we are. I do take the interjection that came across the chamber earlier on that we do not know the full details of what this proposal involves. The suggestion that anybody should be committing to support it in the absence of the details is wrong.

I pride myself on being in touch with the Indigenous issues that I face as the member who represents the people of the Southern Downs. I am sure that if I spoke with those people, as the member for Mirani said, they would be as much in the dark about what this proposal involves as we are. I make one observation: if you want to have influence and change things, being elected is the key. If this proposal provides for unelected representation then it is a proposal which I believe will be destined to have limited effect in advancing the interests of our First Nations people.

I simply cannot understand how the Labor government would politicise a matter like this—bringing this motion with one minute's notice when their members have been provided with speeches and are speaking from notes. I reserve my decision on whether or not I believe that this proposal is what is right and what will be in the best interests of First Nations people, or whether it will be symbolism and more talk without the action that is needed to assist people in Indigenous communities who are doing it tough.