



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Deebing Creek

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.13 pm): Two weeks ago land clearing began at the Stockland Paradise Waters residential development at Deebing Creek in my electorate. This inspired Greens members from Brisbane and beyond to re-engage with the small group of protestors camped on the site of the former Deebing Creek mission, which is about a kilometre away from the Stockland development.

Missions are a shameful part of white history. The former Deebing Creek mission operated from 1887 to 1915. I am aware of the sensitivities for the traditional owners of the area and for First Nations people who have an historical connection to the old mission site and the state owned cemetery. The fact is that the land currently being developed, as well as the land the former mission is on, was converted from reserve land to freehold land in the eighties. The developers and the lawfully registered native title claim group, the Yuggera Ugarapul People, or YUP, have developed a cultural heritage management plan, or CHMP. It has been a personal and extremely difficult journey for them, and I know how seriously they have taken the process.

As the member for Ipswich, I am connected to my community. I know the local First Nations people, and I know how much pain the current protestors, along with members of the Greens party, have caused them over the past several years and continue to do to this day. I have been advised that, despite their personal investment in the CHMP, and their involvement in the broader Ipswich community, the YUP are treated with disdain by the Greens and by the protestors currently on the site. I have been told that the YUP are, in fact, completely ignored and even made to feel unwelcome by the Greens and other protestors whenever they visit the site. Just let that sink in: the lawful native title claimants of that country are made to feel unwelcome by the Greens and by the protestors when they visit their own country.

I have a message for those Brisbane blow-ins who have claimed this issue as their own to score cheap political points. You do not speak for the Yuggera Ugarapul People. You do not speak for Ipswich people. Those West End Greens like Brisbane City Councillor Jonathon Sri and the state MP for South Brisbane seem set to live their lives as perpetual undergraduates, drawing attention to themselves by taking on issues that do not concern them, as is the case in this matter—but it really causes harm to people. These self-serving charlatans need to know that by their actions and their words they are causing immense pain to local First Nations families.

Similarly, *Ipswich Tribune* journalist Brian Bennion loves the sensational headlines that make outrageous claims. He also needs to know that his post-truth journalism is causing pain to First Nations families in Ipswich. I am reliably informed that the YUP refuse to even speak to him because he is not representing their best interests. I know how they feel.

When it comes to healing the sins of our past, I will continue to work with the YUP, the state and federal governments, and the Ipswich City Council going forward. The YUP have my full support and deserve nothing less.

*(Time expired)*