



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Voice to Parliament**

**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.38 am): I rise to contribute to the debate such as it is on this motion. I would like to begin my contribution by acknowledging the former member for Cook, Billy Gordon, who passed away suddenly and recently over the weekend. He provided a strong voice for First Nations people in this very chamber.

In 1962 a bill was brought before the federal parliament that sought to give the right to vote to First Nations Australians. Then in 1984 First Nations people in Australia were brought into line with everybody else and compulsory voting was introduced for them. Up until then it was completely optional. When I was born and when many of the people in this chamber who are sitting members were born, voting was still optional for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 1967 we had a referendum to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as citizens of this country, to put them on the electoral roll. Every single federal parliamentarian voted in support of it in that referendum.

That is why it was so disappointing to learn that the federal National Party has taken a firm partisan position to oppose the national Voice to Parliament when they have not yet seen the details. There has been no bill put before the parliament. They have adopted a position against the national voice without even seeing it. It is totally premature. It is the right of Queenslanders to know what the position of the Queensland LNP is when it comes to this issue. The reason we are debating this motion today is their federal colleagues have decided to take a position on it. We in this chamber need to know what their position is in Queensland. I cannot wait to see how they are going to vote.