




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Path to Treaty, State Records

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.02 am): It is an incredibly proud moment to be here on this historic day, to be an Aboriginal person in this House but also a member of this government as we reconfirm our commitment to reframing the government's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations. As the custodian of nearly 200 years of Queensland government records, the Queensland State Archives has an important role to play in supporting the government's Path to Treaty commitments.

Queensland State Archives holds around 3.5 million items created by successive governments over the past 200 years in its collections, thousands of which relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In June 2021 after releasing its statement of intent in response to the International Council on Archives Tandanya Adelaide declaration, QSA developed the First Nations First program. This has started the journey to welcome, include and involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the gathering, managing and keeping of Queensland's state records.

Last year Ms Rose Barrowcliffe, a Butchulla woman from K'gari, or Fraser Island, an academic from the University of the Sunshine Coast, was appointed as the Queensland government's inaugural First Nations archives adviser. Ms Barrowcliffe has helped improve QSA's understanding of cultural capability, cultural safety and sensitivities while also providing guidance on the First Nations First program. Queensland State Archives is also prioritising the digitisation of records relating to First Nations peoples to ensure these vital records of our shared history are available for generations to come.

We know that the records at QSA contribute to telling the story of the colonisation of Queensland, the impacts of which affect First Nations people today. With the help of Queensland historian Dr Jonathan Richards, thousands of records relating to Queensland's frontier wars have been identified, digitised and assessed for content. A team of QSA staff and seven research assistants have worked on this frontier wars project, and nearly 4,000 records have been identified, digitised and described to increase accessibility. They document and hold the evidence of our shared past—a past that is sometimes ugly and uncomfortable yet it is the truth of what has occurred in this state, a past that has been documented by the very people and institutions that were responsible for the sometimes brutal acts associated with invasion and colonisation. These are important records and they are critical to Queensland's path to treaty. They include records kept by Aboriginal protectors, instances of violence and names and locations relevant to first wars.

QSA aims to play its part in truth telling and the Path to Treaty by respecting First Nations knowledge and unlocking the documents from our shared past.