



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Voice to Parliament**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (11.29 am): After that contribution, I am more saddened than I have ever been before. This country has been living with an untruth for over 200 years, and that untruth is terra nullius. It has formed the basis of our Constitution, it has formed the basis of failed policies from centuries ago, and it is the basis of intergenerational trauma and racism which First Nations people are still experiencing today.

As you heard from the Premier, unlike almost every other nation, Australia does not have a formal treaty with the First Peoples of this country—the ancient cultures and peoples of this country. That is why the Uluru Statement from the Heart is so very important. It is an invitation to walk with First Nations peoples towards voice, towards treaty, towards truth so that we can overcome this untruth that we have been living with all of these decades.

In Queensland we are on our Path to Treaty, truth-telling and healing. We have a part to play in ensuring First Nations peoples have a voice to our federal parliament and that in decision-making and policy considerations we consider First Nations first. We are seeing that in Queensland. We are already doing the work here with regard to policies and service delivery. We know that closing the gap is so incredibly important. That is why you see that in the actual service delivery of education, health and housing.

All of the frontline services are already doing this work with regard to closing the gap, but what is missing is the overturning of this untruth that we have been living with all of this time, this untruth that First Nations peoples should not be counted as human beings, the untruth that our culture, the most ancient culture in the whole of the world, is not valid or valued compared to others. That is untruth that we have been living with. That is why the Voice is so very important. It means that we are saying in our Constitution that we are ready to understand the truth of where we came from and who we are and how we want to be into the future.

The Voice is fundamental to that. It is fundamental. That is why this motion should be supported where this House can fundamentally stand up and say that we will no longer live with an untruth, that we will absolutely embrace the truth of who we are and we will make sure that that is part of our Constitution and that we will support the Voice. The fact that the Nationals, not even knowing what the actual question is, are already saying no to it speaks volumes about where they come from and what they put as valuable.