



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Voice to Parliament**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.12 pm): Today is a defining moment in time. It is the time when we as Queensland parliamentarians elected to this place voice our opinion with regard to our First Nations people: how we respect them, how we deal with them and how we see their society and our society being one voice together. That is why I rise today to support the motion of a Voice to Parliament, to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I have been privileged in the past to be a former minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. I have been privileged to be a former senator and work on regional and remote Indigenous community committees led at the particular time by a former National Party senator, Nigel Scullion. He would be appalled to hear the opposition that we are hearing from those opposite with regard to this motion.

This is our opportunity to tell the rest of Queensland how we as a government see the future of our First Nations people. They never had a chance to have an opinion on how they wanted their education, health or children dealt with.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Hinchinbrook will cease his interjections.

**Mr FURNER:** Today is an opportunity for those on all sides of this House to voice their opinion on how they want to hear the voice of our First Nations people in the future. With absolute respect, our First Nations people do not have the privilege of having a voice when it comes to their future. A constitutional Voice to Parliament in the future will recognise the sins and hurt of the past of our First Nations people and will make sure we work together to provide a better future for them. It is important that we act today in a responsible manner to support our First Nations people.

The member for Stafford and myself have been privileged to attend the Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group on National Sorry Day and hear the stories from the past. I encourage everyone to listen to their Indigenous communities: go to your remote Indigenous communities: if you are invited, and hear firsthand what has happened in the past. You will get a better appreciation and a better understanding and be in a position to not only support motions like this but also support the constitutional vote into the future. I vote wholeheartedly in support of this motion today.