




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

MOTION

Voice to Parliament

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (11.41 am): I have just spoken with the Yuwibara people and the Wiri Biri people in my region, who have no idea about the situation we are talking about here. They do not understand whether the people who are going to be put into these positions of the Voice to Parliament will be democratically elected or appointed by the government.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr ANDREW: It is not a disgrace; it is a fair question. The people have asked me to ask—

An honourable member: Your leader!

Mr ANDREW: It has nothing to do with my leader. I represent the people of Mirani in this place.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please, member.

Mr ANDREW: I listened to the member for Algester's contribution here today. Yes, there is generational trauma and I do fight for all my people, including the original South Sea islander people. We are all interlinked with the Aboriginal people. They are all saying the same thing: 'What does this all mean? Where does it come from?'

An honourable member: What's your position?

Mr ANDREW: The position is show me what we are actually voting on. I understand it. I do not understand the situation.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ANDREW: I am not taking interjections.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr ANDREW: I always stand by the people and the people need to understand what this is all about. They do not understand.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr ANDREW: I stand up for all people's heritage. We are intermixed. Even the member for Algester will tell honourable members we are all intermixed with the Australian South Sea islanders. We stand by the people all the time. The problem is we are doing too many things at the top level and we are not talking to the people who actually live in these areas. I just got off the phone from them. They are asking me, 'What's this all about? How come no-one has actually spoken to us?' It was exactly the same with the Pioneer hydro project with the Yuwibara people.

Ms Fentiman: What about Eungella?

Mr ANDREW: They actually went there. I went well at Eungella, thanks. The point is this—

Ms Fentiman: How did the Wiri people go?

Mr ANDREW: They were fine. The point is this: they were never asked anything. They were never told anything. We did a signing here at parliament and then when we went out there we just organised and announced something that no-one even knew about. They still say, 'We don't know anything about what's going on. We don't know why they're coming into the electorate and saying this and putting up all these proposals.' Yes, it was generational trauma, and don't I know it? I might not be Aboriginal, but a lot of my family are and we speak about it all the time.

There are bills in parliament and recognition statements over there that cannot be acted on in this House in terms of the Australian South Sea islanders who are also Australian First Nations and Australian tribal people. We would like to get some clarity so we know what we are actually looking at and voting for and whether the government are appointing people or they are democratically elected in this process.

(Time expired)