




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Path to Treaty

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): The Premier's announcement today of a First Nations Treaty Institute and a truth-telling and healing inquiry is momentous. These are important steps on the Path to Treaty. There is a momentum right now across Australia towards reconciliation with our First Nations people. The Albanese government is progressing its commitment to a Voice to Parliament, and treaty processes similar to ours are underway in other states. We are determined for this process to be more than a symbolic gesture, with concrete actions that respond to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' wishes.

In my department we have developed the Yhurri Gurri Framework, a process recognising the significant benefits First Nations businesses, communities and peoples can bring to Queensland's economy. It emphasises the importance of understanding, acknowledging and respecting First Nations peoples, culture and knowledge. The Path to Treaty has informed the framework and the related strategically focused Yhurri Gurri participation plan. These initiatives support my department in getting treaty ready.

We also have a commitment to First Nations businesses. All procurement policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated to incorporate First Nations business engagement throughout the entire procurement process. In December 2021 it was mandated that, where a capable First Nations business exists, they must be invited to tender. This has resulted in 35 per cent of procurements inviting a First Nations business to tender in the period January to March 2022 and 30 per cent in the period April to June 2022.

We also support Indigenous councils through a range of grants and programs such as: the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, a \$120 million funding program that delivers critical water and wastewater infrastructure to Queensland's Indigenous councils; the State Government Financial Aid program, which provided more than \$37.2 million last financial year to Indigenous councils to help deliver core services; and the Indigenous Economic Development Grant, which is designed to help maintain and create jobs in local government.

We are also committed to a strong and deep partnership with First Nations Queenslanders to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brisbane 2032 is an opportunity to honour, embrace and showcase the rich and ancient history of two of the world's oldest living cultures. Through all of these initiatives we can continue to recognise, support and celebrate Queensland's First Nations communities. Today is a proud day for our parliament. I am very much looking forward to the formal announcement on the Speaker's Green later today.

I would like to take a moment to honour Tanya Battel. She was a strong campaigner for the voluntary assisted dying legislation we passed last year. Many members would have met Tanya then. She came here to parliament to present me with a petition of more than 111,000 signatures supporting those laws. Tanya had battled cancer since 1997. Tragically, our laws could not be fully implemented in time for her and she passed away in Switzerland recently, but she changed the world for others like her in Queensland. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her work on this important reform, and my thoughts are with her friends and family.