




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

MOTION

Voice to Parliament

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (11.22 am): What a disappointment. Those opposite cannot even come in here and tell Queenslanders whether they support a Voice or not. They are too afraid to say what they really think, so we get three minutes of guff from the Leader of the Opposition with no spine, no strength and no leadership whatsoever.

In this House we represent more than five million Queenslanders. This House has represented them for more than 160 years, but Queensland's history is much older with our first Queenslanders dating back tens of thousands of years. They are the proud custodians of this land, going back hundreds of generations, but the legacy of colonisation and marginalisation has entrenched institutional disadvantage, affecting everything from education outcomes to life expectancy. We all have a responsibility to right these old wrongs and close the gap.

That is why the Uluru Statement from the Heart is so important. It is a path to reconciliation with our First Nations people. While we see the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Indigenous Voice to Parliament as a chance to come together, those opposite are looking to use them to score cheap political points and divide Queenslanders. On the weekend their state council, the LNP State Council, overwhelmingly backed a motion opposing the treaty. In his contribution, the Leader of the Opposition would not say if he voted for that motion and he would not say if he spoke against that motion. He would not say if at the LNP State Council he did the right thing or the wrong thing. From what he did say today, I suspect he did the wrong thing.

They are proposing a united campaign to deny First Australians their voice and representation that they rightly deserve to our federal parliament. They are weaponising racist stereotypes and misrepresenting the nature of the Voice to the detriment of our First Nations people. Tragically, the National Party represents many of the most disadvantaged Indigenous communities. In fact, David Littleproud himself represents many of those disadvantaged communities that he as leader of the National Party continues to demand are disenfranchised. Today Queenslanders deserved to know if those opposite share those views, and now we have learnt they do not even have the guts to tell us.