



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Path to Treaty

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.45 pm): 10 May 2023 is a date that will stay with me long after I have left this place—a truly historic day in our parliament, when we passed legislation to construct the institutions that will forge our path to treaty. I honour the giants of our history who paved the way for us to follow, who enabled us to come here and create this moment in history. They are too many to name. To all those ancestors who allowed us to seize this moment I express my deepest gratitude.

It seems to me that we are living in a moment that is rich in opportunity to take these steps. I want to put on the record my full support for a national Voice to Parliament. I want to acknowledge and commend the Albanese Labor government for its courage in making a bold commitment towards enshrining Voice in our nation's Constitution. Having a voice to parliament has been the aspiration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for a very long time. Voice is and will always be about achieving meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The time for change is now. Voice is an opportunity for all of us to pave a new path for a better future. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a powerful drawing together of First Nations regional dialogues from all across our continent—from all points of the southern sky.

Yesterday in this place we saw the power of bipartisanship. I want to recognise and commend my parliamentary colleagues from across the chamber for perceiving this moment and committing to walk this path to treaty together with us. I have full faith in the goodwill and foresight of the Australian people. I look forward to the next watershed moment in our nation's history with a great deal of optimism. I would like to close my speech by drawing some words directly from the Uluru Statement from the Heart—

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

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We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.