




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2023

PATH TO TREATY BILL

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.05 pm): I rise to support the Path to Treaty Bill 2023. I start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the lands on which we are gathering here in beautiful Gimuy, in Cairns, on Yidiny lands and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging of all of the lands which we represent here in this place. I acknowledge all of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are in the gallery here today to watch this historic bill be passed.

I know there are many others who, like me, were taught more about the history of Captain Cook in school than we were taught about the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as among the world's oldest continuing living cultures. I know the experience of the students who are here with us in the gallery today will be very different to that of mine 40 years ago. We have come a little way but we still have a very long way to go. I was born on the lands of the Wurundjeri people in the Kulin Nation. They are the traditional owners of the lands surrounding the Yarra Valley. I was not taught that at school. Their traditional language is Woi Wurrung. We were not taught that in school. In fact, we were taught French. I think it is important that we reinvigorate our traditional languages and make sure they are taught in school. I am very proud of the students at Victoria Point State Primary School in my electorate who can sing the national anthem in traditional language.

Truth-telling and being honest about our past will bring us as communities, as Queenslanders and as Australians closer together. Just as today in our schools and our communities we celebrate the incredibly rich culture of the world's oldest living civilisation, now is the time to also tell the truth about our uncomfortable shared history. Truthfully telling the stories of our shared history is key to genuine reconciliation. It will help us go forward and walk together on a truly shared journey in our beautiful country. As the member for Bundamba and proud Gubbi Gubbi man said in his contribution, this legislation could have really been put in the too-hard basket by the Premier. I thank her for bringing this forward. It is a really important and historic piece of legislation. I thank the members for Algester, Cook and Bundamba and Minister Crawford for the significant work they have done.

Although I was born on Wurundjeri land, for over 30 years I have called Redlands, the stunning lands of the Quandamooka people, home. It is home to the Noonuccal, Ngugi and Gorempul peoples whose lands, winds and waters I have the privilege of sharing. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Ngugi elder Uncle Bob Anderson for his contribution to our community. It has been substantial. I do not think there is anybody in this chamber who is not familiar with Uncle Bob's contribution. Again I want to acknowledge Minister Enoch as a proud and strong Quandamooka woman and to remember Aunty Joan Hendriks who sadly passed away in 2020. She made an enormous contribution to our Redlands community. She would always conclude her welcome to countries with the poem of another incredibly strong Quandamooka woman, Oodgeroo Noonuccal. To conclude I would like to read that poem: *A Song of Hope*. I think this bill goes part of the way to bringing that hope to life. With an open mind and an open heart, through treaty and voice, we will bring about a glad tomorrow.

Look up, my people,
The dawn is breaking
The world is waking
To a bright new day
When none defame us
No restriction tame us
Nor colour shame us
Nor sneer dismay.

Now brood no more
On the years behind you
The hope assigned you
Shall the past replace
When a juster justice
Grown wise and stronger
Points the bone no longer
At a darker race.

So long we waited
Bound and frustrated
Till hate be hated
And caste deposed
Now light shall guide us
No goal denied us
And all doors open
That long were closed.

See plain the promise
Dark freedom-lover!
Night's nearly over
And though long the climb
New rights will greet us
New mateship meet us
And joy complete us
In our new Dream Time.

To our fathers' fathers
The pain, the sorrow;
To our children's children
The glad tomorrow.

I commend this bill to the House.