



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Path to Treaty**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.35 pm): Last week we acknowledged the 15th anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations, an act of great leadership, healing and reconciliation. It will forever remain a key moment in Australian history and a key moment in Australian First Nations history. This week Queensland will see a moment of equal, if not greater, significance—another act of leadership, healing and reconciliation—with the introduction of Queensland’s first ever dedicated laws to treaty. There is no mistaking that this will be an incredibly historic moment for our state. It is a moment that we have been building towards, as the Palaszczuk government has, here in Queensland, been walking towards a formal path to treaty since 2019. This is a path and a journey that we have been on for much longer and that has stretched back for over 200 years and it is a path and a journey whose final destination will be one of mutual joy, healing and respect between First Nations and non-First Nations Queenslanders—for all of us. It is going to recognise the over 60,000 years of continuous culture and connection to this land that we call Queensland.

We as humans naturally seek consensus. In my opinion, agreement and agreement making is intrinsic to us. We see examples of it everywhere every day, whether it is basic retail trade, workplace agreements or personal and family arrangements, right through to legal contracts. Our path towards treaty here in Queensland has included previous examples of agreement making with First Nations people. Indigenous land use agreements, cultural heritage management plans and native title are all significant and important precursors and milestones.

It is said that treaty will not be a journey for the faint-hearted—and that is no doubt true, but we are Queenslanders and we are stout of heart, we are generous of heart and we are generous of spirit. We look out for each other, we work together and we give each other a fair go. In Queensland, unlike any other jurisdiction in Australia, our path to treaty is a result of First Nations and non-First Nations Queenslanders working together.

There is great support and momentum here in Queensland, including in my local Bundamba community. Last Friday night I was holding a mobile office in Ebbw Vale and the issue of treaty and Voice came up a few times, mainly prompted by some corflutes that I had on display. One local voiced his support as a mark of respect for a dear friend of his and as a way of further closing the gap on Indigenous health outcomes. Then I was having a yarn about treaty and Voice with a local resident who holds an esteemed position as pro-vice-chancellor for one of our most prestigious academic institutions when another resident who was sitting at a nearby table and who must have been listening to our conversation said unprompted, ‘Should have happened years ago.’

I was reflecting on that moment later that night and it made me recall a memory when many years ago as a young boy I would be driven around by my grandfather and as we drove around South-East Queensland he would point out the places that he was not allowed to go as a young man. He was not

allowed in certain pubs or places of business—these are well-known places that are still around today—and it is a really sobering memory for me to recall that. I am thankful for my grandfather and all of our elders for their strength and guidance and I hope that they would be proud of the steps that we are taking now, just as I hope that the children of today and future generations who will be living the future afforded by treaty will look back and wonder, ‘Why did it take so long?’, because it is going to be enriching for all Queenslanders. Treaty means truth; it means respect. Treaty means healing, treaty means reconciliation and treaty means celebration for all of us.