



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Path to Treaty; Voice to Parliament; Nash, Ms I

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.16 pm): 2023 is a cornerstone year for reconciliation between the First Peoples of this state and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Today in this House the Palaszczuk government and this parliament have made history with our historic Path to Treaty legislation—legislation that provides the foundation for Queenslanders to look deeply and honestly into the truth of our shared past so as to begin the journey of healing and map out our shared prosperous future together.

Every parliamentary sitting day, we recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this state. When we do that, it is a reminder that every day wherever we might travel across this great state we are breathing in the DNA of thousands of generations of story. Every time we do that, that DNA becomes part of who we are and we carry that story and the responsibility of those stories are with us in all that we do.

Later this year, every Australian will have the opportunity to achieve Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the form of a Voice to Parliament and carry that DNA into those deliberations. The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a generous offering from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the wider Australian public. It is not a complex proposition—voice, treaty and truth. A Voice to Parliament will not provide an immediate remedy for past and present injustices, nor will it create a new bureaucracy. As Noel Pearson has said, it is an enhancement of our democracy, not an affront to it. It will simply ensure recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in our nation's Constitution and enshrine the right of First Nations Australians to be heard. Not every generation is offered the profound opportunity to reflect upon and contribute to the social and cultural identity of the nation in the way that we are about to in this year's referendum. Not every generation gets to speak to the DNA that they have been breathing in all of their lives. We cannot miss this opportunity.

When all Queenslanders and Australians have their say and vote in this important referendum, we will be speaking to the truth of who we are as a nation and asking our Constitution to reflect that back to us. We will be seeking to recognise what we have known to be true for thousands of generations. I ask that every person in this House, in this state and in this nation reflects on the DNA that you carry when you cast your vote later this year.

In the last few moments of my speech, I want to acknowledge that the Acacia Ridge Fire Station is mourning the loss of one of their own. Izabella Nash passed recently in the line of duty. I want to acknowledge her family and her service and the service of all of those at the Acacia Ridge Fire Station.