




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.06 am): Today is the first time a Minister for Treaty has stood before this House. It is in this very House that successive state governments have legislated policies and practices to, at times, the detriment and disregard of culture, ceremony, spirituality and language for many First Nations peoples. It is in this parliament, earlier this month in Cairns, that we passed the historic legislation as part of our Path to Treaty. I want to acknowledge the work of the former minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, Craig Crawford, for all of his work getting us to this point.

This legislation provides the foundation for Queenslanders to look deeply and honestly into the truth of our shared past and to begin the journey of healing together. The next steps in the Path to Treaty are important ones, and ones that we need to ensure we get right. Since becoming Minister for Treaty, I have got straight to work, immediately meeting with the Interim Truth and Treaty Body to discuss their important ongoing work and the milestones ahead of us. My immediate focus is the terms of reference for the inquiry and appointing members of the inquiry and the Treaty Institute Council.

The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry will inquire into and report on the effects of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In telling the truth of our shared history we will not shy away from the difficult conversations. A First Nations Treaty Institute will be established to develop a framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to prepare for and then commence treaty negotiations with the Queensland government. I am absolutely determined to help guide Queensland through the truth and treaty process.

This Saturday, National Reconciliation Week will begin. The theme this year is 'Be a voice for generations'. All Australians are encouraged to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives. This is particularly important in 2023—a cornerstone year for reconciliation in our state and country. In Queensland, we have the potential to realise all elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We are already on our path to truth-telling and treaty in this state. Later this year, all Australians will have their say on the important referendum that aims to establish full recognition of the First Peoples of this country via a permanent advisory body. Supporting the Voice is about speaking to the truth of who we are as a nation and asking our Constitution to reflect that back to us. I look forward to updating the House on our state's advancement toward treaty, voice and truth.