




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Path to Treaty; K'gari

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): Welcome back, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is proudly on a Path to Treaty, with the Interim Truth and Treaty Body having conducted consultation sessions across the state for the past four months to help inform the next steps of Queensland's Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and the establishment of the treaty institute. I look forward to updating the House further on this work in the coming weeks and months. Truth, treaty and voice are, of course, the three key interconnected pillars of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and to have Queensland's Path to Treaty bill passed with bipartisan support by this parliament last month was historic.

Last week saw another historic moment in Queensland with K'gari formally reinstated as the rightful name for the world's largest sand island. To coincide with the restoration of the name, more than 19 hectares of land was transferred to the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation. I was pleased to join the Premier, ministers Stewart and Linard, along with the member for Hervey Bay and the hundreds of people who gathered to mark this truly historic day. This was a day that had been a long time coming but equally, a day that was always meant to be.

Last week, we joined together to speak the truth back into the land formerly known as 'Fraser Island'. It is a truth that has lived in the DNA of that place since time began; a truth that has been carried for thousands of generations by the Butchulla people; a truth that every visitor to beautiful K'gari has been breathing in, whether they knew it or not.

The reclaiming of its traditional name means that all of us can benefit from the reconciled truth of what that place has always been called—K'gari. We can all benefit from the strengthening of the Butchulla people through the rightful transfer of land. The taking of K'gari's name from her was an injustice of the past—a past in which lies were spread and a false story was told. A woman's story of mistreatment by the Butchulla people has since been debunked. The false story which was told by Eliza Fraser not only sealed the fate of K'gari's name but also the fate of the Butchulla people. These were the same people who gave Ms Fraser shelter. Last week we told the truth about the past and returned K'gari to her rightful name.

On the Path to Treaty, recognising Indigenous languages and names against the backdrop of the truth of our shared history—uncomfortable and confronting as it may be—demonstrates the Queensland government's commitment to reconciliation. Steps like this one mark important progress on our journey and help us to realise the benefits of truth-telling in Queensland. It was an honour to be a part of this special occasion on K'gari. I look forward to many more special occasions ahead of us on our Path to Treaty.