




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Richards, Aunty Rose; Voice to Parliament

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): I join with you, Mr Speaker, and the Minister for Health in recognising Aunty Rose Richards and all of the work that she has done for so many women over our lifetime. I also acknowledge my Grogan family who will be mourning that loss as well.

The Palaszczuk government supports the call for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Uluru Statement from the Heart for voice, treaty and truth. We stand alongside every other state and territory government in Australia in our support for the modest request to recognise the First Peoples of this country in our founding document by enshrining an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory body whose sole purpose will be to provide advice to government on matters that relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Earlier this year, Queensland took our next step in honouring the Uluru Statement from the Heart with the passing of our landmark Path to Treaty legislation. This legislation received bipartisan support. I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition and every member of the Queensland LNP for their resolute support for this historic legislation. It is because of the commitment of the Labor government and the support of the opposition that Queensland will see the establishment of a Treaty Institute to ready all parties for treaty making in this state and that we will see the establishment of a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry where we will unlock the thousands of generations of stories, some ancient and others more recent, along with the many thousands of records created and kept since first contact that are held in our State Archives.

This Saturday, all Australians will have a profound opportunity to make history by supporting a Voice to Parliament. Over the past few months I have joined with thousands of Queenslanders and colleagues in supporting the Voice to Parliament—from Logan and Acacia Ridge to Townsville, Barcaldine and Yarrabah, to name just a few. Queenslanders right across the state have been campaigning for 'yes'—knocking on doors, handing out flyers and having important and respectful conversations about the importance of this proposal. A 'yes' vote is an opportunity to reflect the true unique identity of Australia—an Australia that recognises its true and full history, an Australia that permanently recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Peoples of this country in our Constitution, an Australia that says 'yes' to a First Nations voice to the Commonwealth government enshrined in the constitution.

For too long, Commonwealth governments of all persuasions have established and abandoned numerous representative bodies comprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians advising on government policies affecting their lives. This impermanent approach has actively hindered

momentum and progress in so many areas and resulted in the persistent and unacceptable disadvantage experienced by First Australians. This weekend, I am voting 'yes'. I am voting 'yes' for recognition; I am voting 'yes' for listening; I am voting 'yes' for better results. That is what it is all about. It is as simple as that.