



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Voice to Parliament**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.16 pm): Last sitting week in Cairns this House passed the Path to Treaty Bill to right some historical wrongs so we may move forward together as a state. That is just the start. More needs to be done. We need everyone to support the upcoming referendum—the Voice to Parliament. I would like to remind those opposite of the classic Australian anthem *You're the Voice*, which was also recently performed in the language of Mitch Tambo. The key lyrics that should resonate are—

You're the voice, try and understand it  
Make a noise and make it clear

...

We're not gonna sit in silence  
We're not gonna live with fear

Yet we have the LNP opposite sitting in silence. The Queensland LNP will not tell Queenslanders what they believe on the Voice—a simple answer, yet they sit in silence. Will they support a Voice in federal parliament for Indigenous Queenslanders or will they oppose it? At this stage we know seven of those opposite will oppose it. This is the LNP that is a policy vacuum, that puts slogans before sincerity and sound bites before support.

Ultimately, they defer to Peter Dutton for decisions rather than stand defiant. It seems strange that the Leader of the Opposition thinks he is the David in the political David versus Goliath battle, but at least the biblical David had stones. Those opposite are on the wrong side of history. To be subservient to the policy poverty of Peter Dutton is to be supporting a man who boycotted the apology to the stolen generations, a man who said—

I failed to grasp at the time the symbolic significance to the stolen generations of the apology.

Tomorrow I will be at Teralba Park on Sorry Day reading the apology—a proud statement that Labor governments have supported year in, year out. The LNP still fails to grasp the significance of the Voice, yet the people of Queensland know that we on this side of the House, among others, will support the Voice. We will walk the walk and attempt to right the wrongs of the past. I will be campaigning in my electorate and I know many others, if not all, on this side will be doing that to support the Voice. I will make a noise. I will make it clear and so should every member of this House. For this referendum to succeed later this year, we need all Queenslanders to be the voice. We as Queenslanders should be campaigning to vote yes day in, day out, every day of the week across the whole breadth of Queensland. We must make sure this referendum gets up and we must make sure we support our oldest continuous culture of more than 65,000 years, our First Nations people.