




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

### **PATH TO TREATY BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (4.03 pm): We have a great honour to share Queensland with cultures whose rich histories date back 65,000 years. Our First Nations people called these lands home long before Europeans made their way here. But to our great shame these cultures were never recognised when the first Europeans deemed this land terra nullius—nobody's land—a declaration which disregarded the world's oldest living culture and set the stage for centuries of disadvantage and inequality. The treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in this state has often been deeply shameful. We have so much to be proud of as Queenslanders, but this is an unfortunate stain on our history. One that, as lawmakers and leaders in our communities, we have a responsibility to make right.

I am proud to support the Path to Treaty Bill because it will put us on the path to right those wrongs. The bill will establish the First Nations Treaty Institute and healing inquiry which will be empowered to develop a framework for treaty negotiations and begin the truth-telling process across Queensland. Treaty will recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the original custodians of the land, waters and air of Queensland and will provide the foundation for a better relationship.

This is an important moment for Queensland. We can choose to make peace with a violent past and right those historic wrongs. I said when speaking in memory of Queensland Elizabeth II that it should not be controversial to recognise the harm of colonisation on our First Nations peoples. We see it to this day in our incarceration rates, in the worst health outcomes, in the education gap. Path to Treaty will be a path to closing those gaps. It will be a path to tell and hear the truth. Along with constitutional recognition and the Voice, it is the path Australia's First Nations peoples generously invited us to walk with them in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. In supporting this bill we accept their offer and take another step on the path to treaty, a pathway I am proud to walk alongside our First Nations peoples, including the member for Algester, the member for Cook and the member for Bundamba, led by the Premier and the member for Barron River, the minister. I commend the bill to the House.