



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

## MOTION

### Path to Treaty

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak on the private member's motion moved by the member for Mirani. The member for Mirani getting up in the parliament to reference the 70 per cent of Queenslanders voting no at the federal Voice referendum is nothing to be proud of. We are talking about the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, so I ask the member for Mirani to show some decency and respect. I think what the member for Mirani missed is that the Voice was a vehicle for change. It was going to set the foundations for First Nations peoples to have a say on the issues that affect them. That has always been the aspiration for First Nations peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders—that is, to speak to issues that affect them. That is why we need actual mechanisms in place such as the Voice and such as treaty to enable First Nations people to be part of the decision-making process.

We talk about closing the gap. We need to go back to the core of the problem, and Voice and treaty open a door that is different. They give us the opportunity to look through a different lens—through the lens of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We talk about closing the gap, but we need to understand it from the perspective of First Nations people. It is no secret that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer the worst outcomes in relation to health, life expectancy, appropriate housing and education. I can speak of this because, as someone who was raised in a remote community and now represents one of the most complex electorates in Queensland, I can tell members that the odds are always going to stack up against my communities. We know there is a huge gap in life outcomes for First Nations people and non-Indigenous people in this country and we need strong mechanisms in place backed by government to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. What we need are enduring, long-lasting agreements between government and First Nations peoples.

I am proud to represent the Miles Labor government, to stand on the right side of history with First Nations peoples. I was proud to stand on the right side of history in 2019 when our government signed a statement of commitment to reframe the relationship with First Nations people to deliver better, well-informed results that work for communities. We on this side of the House absolutely back treaty. We on this side of the House are absolutely committed to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and Path to Treaty legislation that was taken to the election in 2020 and then passed in the House with bipartisan support in 2023. However, it did not even take 12 months before the LNP backflipped on its bipartisan support for treaty.

The member for Mirani and the LNP pretend that they are interested in closing the gap, but they are not. They are only interested in widening the gap. They are in it for themselves and using this as a political stunt to gain cheap political votes. My communities are not silly. I concur with Mayor Wayne Butcher when he describes nicely the actions of the LNP as dirty politics, saying that they have put their want for power above the people and that the treaty is about creating a modern partnership. He urges

the LNP to rethink its strategies by saying that rejecting treaty is not going to solve disadvantage of Aboriginal people in this state. When the LNP and One Nation undermine the Path to Treaty, they are undermining the country's commitment to closing the gap. With regard to the member for Traeger talking about action, we are taking action, with treaty providing a vehicle for First Nations people to have a greater say over matters that are important to them. I do not support the motion.