




Speech By
Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (2.55 pm): Charles Spurgeon, a 19th century preacher, famously said, 'Begin as you mean to go on and go on as you began.' If the very first day of the Crisafulli LNP government in the first sitting week of the 58th Parliament is anything to go by, Queenslanders should brace themselves. The way the Premier and this LNP government has begun in this place is straight the out of the Newman government's playbook. In fact, it is worse. After today's efforts, we are seeing an even worse outcome for Queenslanders. Of course, what we have seen already is an attack on the most vulnerable, the trashing of conventions and saying one thing and doing another. That is already their hallmark.

The Premier said, for instance, that he would approach the repeal of the Path to Treaty Act with decency and respect but, when it came down to it, he demonstrated that those words meant absolutely nothing. In fact, they meant the absolute opposite. Instead, we saw from his government a complete trashing of any kind of sense of decency and respect and a going back on its word. He decided to rush through changes with little to no notice and allocated just four hours on the same day for the House to debate. There was no opportunity for a committee to interrogate the legislation, as is the usual convention, and no opportunity for any Queenslanders to have their say, and then they passed the legislation using their majority under the cloak of darkness at close to midnight—a complete trashing of the standard conventions of this place.

He did not need to do that. He could have used some decency and respect. He could have actually brought in other legislation to repeal the Path to Treaty Act, if that is what he intended to do, and he could have saved the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry—a very cost-effective way to tell the stories of the people of this state and tell the true history of our Queensland so that every single Queenslanders could be privy to that information.

We are seeing our elders passing away, taking the stories with them. In one of the hearings of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, one elder told their story and within days had a stroke and was in hospital. That is what will happen right across this state: we will lose those opportunities to hear the true lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The fallout of that has already had an impact. I see members opposite shaking their heads. The fallout is already making an impact. It really is. Who is that member, the one shaking his head? I do not know what seat he is in.

An opposition member: Member for Mackay.

Ms ENOCH: The member for Mackay is currently shaking his head at my comments about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dying before they have a chance to tell their story. I find that quite upsetting. The true and real lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is that we are dying at early ages, not being able to tell these stories in their fulsome way. The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry gave us a chance, in a very protected way, to tell these stories and see the records that are kept by governments.

Not only did we see the Premier show his true colours; we also saw an indication of how the member for Maroochydore, the minister who is responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, intends to go on. It was very telling.

The minister, who ignored her own charter letter requiring her to engage with stakeholders, refused to pay the most basic respect to members of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry by picking up the phone or turning up to a meeting. She scheduled a meeting and then backed out of the meeting and never rescheduled it—no respect whatsoever. She could not even bring herself to do the basic decent thing and face the people working in this space to explain her position. She could not even make a public statement to articulate her plans after supporting the axing of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.

The truth of the matter is that the member for Maroochydore and the LNP have no plans regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the commitment to closing the gap. The member has begun as she intends to go on: ignoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and working against their interests. Today we saw this go even further when they gagged the whole parliament. Every single one of us has had our powers, our responsibilities, fettered by this Premier. All of our constituents are now silenced as a result of that motion. This is how the LNP have begun, and it seems to be how they intend to continue on.

(Time expired)