



Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Path to Treaty; Olympic and Paralympic Games, Netball

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.18 pm): Tonight I rise to congratulate the Premier on establishing a voice to parliament for Queensland's First Nations communities. Last week, on 21 October, Premier David Crisafulli signed an historic accord providing First Nations people a voice to parliament and a direct line to his cabinet. This is a level of access that no other person, council or body has in Queensland, and I congratulate the Premier on this worthy reform.

Who can forget the emotional speech the now Premier and then leader of the opposition made during debate on the Path to Treaty Bill, describing it as 'a catalyst for materially improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this state' and 'a genuine opportunity for our state to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians'? I recall that speech and at the time felt it was sincere. Despite the Premier not always honouring those words, I welcome his renewed commitment to delivering for First Nations communities and hope that this opens the pathways for even greater reform like treaty and truth-telling here in Queensland. I was, however, confused by the minister's comments on Sky News when she appeared to distance herself from the Premier's commitment, stating—

It's the complete opposite of the Voice. It's completely not like that.

I do not know why those opposite are hiding the fact that this is a voice to parliament. The federal Voice to Parliament was intended to be elected representatives from communities providing direct advice to government on issues like housing, water and frontline services. The Premier's accord provides elected representatives from Indigenous communities a direct voice to ministers to, in the minister's own words, provide advice on areas like housing, water and frontline services. I welcome the Premier's voice to parliament and I welcome the Premier's prioritisation of the rights and interests of our First Nations communities.

I also want to take the opportunity to back the bid for netball to be included in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With over 20 million players across 117 countries, it is a no-brainer that netball should be included in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Importantly, netball has the highest participation rates for women and girls in the country.

An honourable member: It's a beautiful game.

Ms BUSH: It is a beautiful game; I take the interjection. We know that women and girls face unique challenges in playing sport, and one of those unique challenges is visibility. I cannot think of any other way, or certainly no more impactful way, to address this than to include netball in the Olympics. We know that netball has the highest approval rating for the bid, with 66 per cent of Australians supporting netball's inclusion in the Olympics. I encourage all Queenslanders to back netball's Olympic bid formally at www.netball.com.au/2032. Let us all get behind this fantastic game.