




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Crisafulli LNP Government, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (9.15 pm): Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have every right to be concerned about this government. Since November 2024 the Crisafulli LNP government has demonstrated a shocking disregard for First Nations peoples, their rights and their futures. What we are witnessing is the beginning of a new era of assimilation in this state—dressed up in the language of parity but rooted in an old and dangerous idea that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be embedded, absorbed and ultimately erased from the policy landscape. The very first act on the very first day of this government was to repeal the Path to Treaty legislation—legislation that the Premier once supported wholeheartedly, calling it a ‘fork in the road’, stating that—

Down one well-travelled path lies a discussion had for political purposes ... Down the other path is a treaty.

Yet without consultation, decency or respect for the communities that had invested hope in this carefully considered process, he tore it up. The Path to Treaty was a promise to this generation and the Premier broke it to, in his own words, take the path of discussion had for political purposes. That repeal set the tone. Since then we have seen a systemic dismantling of structures designed to ensure First Nations voices are central to decisions affecting them.

The once standalone Indigenous Procurement Policy has been integrated into the mainstream policy or ‘embedded’, as the minister proudly declared to a room full of stunned Indigenous business owners. In education, there are some reports that indicate the dedicated Indigenous policy unit has been abandoned, with identified roles no longer in place. If that is true, then Queensland has very little chance of addressing the five Closing the Gap targets related directly to education. In the arts, board membership across the statutory arts bodies is undergoing an erasing of Indigenous voices. Apart from incredibly qualified First Nations peoples not having their board appointments renewed on boards like QPAC, it has come to my attention that the only two Indigenous members of the QAGoMA board were unceremoniously and without explanation sacked last week part way through their term. What reason is there to remove people before the end of their term?

We are also hearing disturbing reports from native title applicants that the government has shifted its consent determination policy, forcing traditional owners into costly and protracted litigation rather than negotiated outcomes. That is not partnership; that is obstruction. Even the outgoing Queensland human rights commissioner Scott McDougall warned that this government’s hostile policy direction risks fuelling far-right ideology and undermining reconciliation at a time when Queensland should be preparing to present itself to the world in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. This is not about efficiency and it is not about parity; it is about ideology. Just this week we saw the federal government launch an inquiry into racism, hate and violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this truth-telling endeavour at the federal level.