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Hello everyone, and thank you to Dean Nola Holloway for that warm welcome and introduction. And thank you to Aunty Gracelyn Smallwood for your generous Welcome to Country. It is important that we pay homage to these traditions in order for us to understand each other and protect our history.

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The judges held that British possession had not eliminated their title and that "the Meriam people are entitled as against the whole world to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of the lands of the Murray Islands". This decision altered the foundation of land law in Australia. It was a profound moment of truth for Australia.

Paul Keating would later reflect on the importance





framework. Section 25 of our Constitution allows for State to ban people from voting on the basis of race. And Section 51 (26) or the s power allows Governments to make laws that can discriminate against people based on their race.

Our s birth certificate is one of the only ones in the world that does not recognise s first peoples, it is completely silent on this history. It is also one of the only ones in the world that actually contains sections that discriminate on the basis of



The discrimination that has been felt in this country continues to play out in the separation between us. This is something my generation can help to repair. My own grandfather, an Anglo man, was imprisoned for the crime of loving my Aboriginal grandmother. That speaks volumes. We have a history that even now reaches into our present. This discrimination on the basis of race is not a relic of the colonial past.

But I stand here before you and tell you

I want to live in a country wher