



March 11, 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Reconciliation Council congratulates Linda Burney on federal preselection

The NSW Reconciliation Council congratulates Linda Burney on her preselection as the Labor Party candidate for the federal seat of Barton.

Ms Burney previously served as Chair of the NSW State Reconciliation Committee, bringing her skills and passion to the organisation's pursuit of justice, equity and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Since stepping down as Chair to further pursue her political career, Ms Burney has continued her involvement with the NSWRC as a strong advocate for Reconciliation and more recently, constitutional recognition.

If elected, Ms Burney will be the first Aboriginal woman to serve in the federal House of Representatives.

NSWRC Indigenous Co-Chair Lindon Coombes said he hopes Ms Burney will continue to work to keep the unresolved issue of Reconciliation on the national agenda.

"We're delighted to see both Ms Burney and the "father of reconciliation", Pat Dodson, contesting the upcoming election," Mr Coombes said. "We're very hopeful that they will both be able to provoke some much-needed discussion about the ongoing need for Reconciliation in our houses of parliament," he said.

NSWRC Non-Indigenous Co-Chair Cecilia Anthony said that Ms Burney's presence in the House of Representatives could be a "game-changer" for Indigenous Australians.

"Ms Burney has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the need for justice and healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within NSW, and we believe that her perspective on those issues at a national level could bring about a real shift in those areas," she said.

