



GLEN ELMES
Member for Noosa

Hansard, 3 June 2009

Fraser Island, Dingoes

Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (11.57 am): One week ago I attended a series of meetings over two days with the member for Hervey Bay that were aimed at giving me a clear understanding of the plight of possibly the last pure strain of dingo in Australia and, importantly, the prevailing environmental conditions on Fraser Island.

The Fraser Island I remembered from my last visit did not have hundreds of metres of fencing and electrified grids and gate systems that would be better suited to Stalag 13. I was also not prepared to see how the vegetation had been cleared by bulldozers for hundreds of metres around the various communities on the island and, in one case, not around or over but straight through an Aboriginal midden. I table some photographs as proof.

Tabled paper: Photographs in relation to dingo culling on Fraser Island.

Nothing prepared me for the degree of animosity which exists between locals, long-time visitors to the island and park rangers over the way our native dog, the dingo, is treated. It is in my view the height of cruelty for rangers as a matter of policy to be able to use slingshots and clay pellets the size of marbles to shoot at dingoes. If that was done in suburbia, the person would be charged. It is estimated from various sources that the dingo population on the island is between 50 and 100 animals. The sustainability of the species on the island must be seriously in doubt.

This government has a responsibility to protect Australia's native dog, it has a responsibility to protect the World Heritage listed Fraser Island and it has a responsibility to act now, not at the end of the current review, to stop the practice of hazing and any further culling of dingoes on Fraser Island. The passion and commitment of locals for their island and the dingo is without question.

During my two days I was fortunate to collect the views of many people I spoke to and I have almost an hour of comments and conversation recorded. They are available to the minister if she would like to hear them.

The World Heritage listed Fraser Island today is a subject of state funded vandalism and it must stop.
