



Speech by

**DAVID DALGLEISH**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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### **REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT**

**Mr DALGLEISH** (Hervey Bay—ONP) (6.35 p.m.): Fraser Island is one of the areas that was logged in the early 1890s. Actually, logging was started there in 1893. After almost 100 years of logging on Fraser Island, the last logs were taken from the island on 9 January 1992. The work that was carried out on the island by the timber cutters had very little impact, whether it be physical or in any other way.

When going through the areas that were logged, the tour operators on the island have great pleasure in asking the people on bus trips, "Can you pick which side of the road was logged and which side was not?" Most of the time the people pick the wrong side of the track because the areas that were logged have returned to a state better than the side that has not been logged.

Former Minister for Environment, Pat Comben, should be sorry. He made the mistake of pushing to have that island taken away from the timber cutters. Now it has been given World Heritage listing. Is that what is in store for all these other areas? Are we going to turn them into World Heritage listed areas so that there are no options left for these people who go out there and earn a living on the land?

I appreciate that members on both sides of the House have had discussions about it and have been out in the community and looked at areas, and I am sure that the members have been out to places such as Aramara and Brooweena—little towns that, without a sawmill, would not exist. What is going to happen to those people? Are we just going to hand them a cheque and say, "Well, that is the way life is"?

I believe that with careful planning we can all work together. Honourable members have only to look at Fraser Island. I would gladly support any moves to take Fraser Island back so that it can be logged again. It is an industry that is good. The Minister for Environment can screw up his face all he likes. He should go over there and look at it. Wait until he has to put bread and butter on the table for his family by going out there and earning his living on the land, not by sitting in this House here making wild, wild policies. He should think about those people who need that work. He should have some heart. People say that no-one in here shows any heart. He should have some heart himself.

These people deserve a living. These people have lived on the land all their life. We do not want some tree-hugging greenies coming in and making some wild statement and taking the livelihood away from everybody else. That is what it is all about. We are just taking it away from those people who live on the land—all for the sake of a couple of per cent of votes. I think it is a pretty sad state when this House has to get behind something like this and allow it to go through. Sure, we do not have a great timber industry right here in the middle of Brisbane, but the Government should think about rural Queenslanders. It may not have many seats out there in rural Queensland, so it does not really care too much about them, but we care about them and we are not about to just bow down and let it get away with what it is saying. We have the guts and that is why we are here—because we have the guts and we are prepared to stand up and say it. The people have asked us to say it. We are here and we are saying it. We will not bow down.