



Speech by

**CAROLYN MALE**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Hansard 28 November 2001

### **FRASER ISLAND**

**Ms MALE** (Glass House—ALP) (6.50 p.m.): I support the amendment and in so doing highlight the impressive record of the Beattie Labor government in managing Fraser Island. Since the election of the Beattie Labor government in 1998, we have moved to address the neglect that set in under the coalition. I remind members that it was a Labor government that was responsible for the stopping of the logging and for the World Heritage listing of Fraser Island. The opposition has a hide moving this motion today, given its support in the past for logging and sandmining on the island and its opposition to World Heritage listing.

In the past, opposition members have opposed anything that was even remotely green, except of course if they were trying to win Green party preferences— and do not even start me on the woeful records of Brian Littleproud, Doug Slack and Vince Lester. However, the Nationals have obviously been dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. Previously their policy was: if it is green and standing, knock it down. Now at least they are willing to consider leaving some bush behind. However, they have a long way to go even to match some of the environmentally conscious farmers and tourist operators in my electorate who realise that the way to maintain a prosperous and healthy environment is to work with mother nature and not against her.

Since Labor came to office, new advisory committees have been formed with improved focus on Fraser Island—a ministerial council, management committee, scientific advisory committee, community advisory committee and heritage advisory committee. In the area of research and monitoring, cooperative efforts include partnerships with the Queensland Museum, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and the Australian Marine Conservation Society—and other government agencies have been included. Management guidelines have been developed for tourism, camping, backpackers, dingoes, roads classifications, walking tracks and long-term environmental monitoring. Updated pre-visit information has been developed for public education, namely, a Fraser Island visitor information sheet, an information kit provided with permit purchase, camping and driving videos for backpacker briefings, revised maps, displays on barges and a Fraser Island site on the EPA web site.

The member for Toowoomba South said there was a desperate need for infrastructure and a plan. Let me tell members about a few of those things. There are new on-site information shelters which have been installed at all key visitor nodes at Central Station, Lake McKenzie, Eli Creek, Lake Wabby, Dundubara, Waddy Point, Ocean Lake, Lake Garawongera, Lake Boomanjin, Pile Valley, the *Maheno* wreck and Middle Rocks. Lookouts have been upgraded or replaced at Lake Wabby, Knifeblade sandblow, Stonetool sandblow and Ocean Lake. A new boardwalk has been built at Middle Rocks and one at Lake McKenzie. The Eli Creek and Woongoolbver Creek boardwalks have also been improved. Improved and refurbished amenities have also been established at various camp grounds. In addition, day visit areas have been revamped. There are new toilets, new bus and car parks, new picnic shelters with tables and gas barbecues, a new information shelter, and the road has been rerouted away from the lake at Lake Garawongera. At Ocean Lake there is an upgraded walking track, a new information shelter, new toilets, and the road has been rerouted away from the lake. That is just some of the infrastructure.

To better provide facilities for visitors and to protect the environment, new toilets have also been installed at Middle Rocks, Ocean Lake, Waddy Point beach camping area, Woongoolbver Creek barge landing and Lake Garawongera, and treatment plants have been upgraded at Eli Creek and Lake Birrabreen. To better manage dingoes, dingo-proof food lockers have been installed in hikers' camps at Central Station, Lake McKenzie and Lake Benaroon, and camp ground fencing construction has commenced. The access road from Kingfisher Bay Resort and village has been upgraded, a high tide access road to the Moon Point barge landing has been built, the major access roads from Middle Rocks to Orchid Beach and the Waddy Point high tide track have been upgraded.

There are also planned improvements such as the redevelopment of Central Station, the closing of Lake McKenzie to car-based camping, a viewing platform and tiered seating area at Lake Allom and toilets at Lake Wabby at the eastern beach entrance. Far from neglecting Fraser Island, the Beattie Labor government, unlike its predecessors, is protecting its World Heritage values, is providing adequate funding and rangers, is consulting with the community on management issues and is constantly looking at how to provide the best possible experience to all visitors to this unique and priceless part of our natural heritage. The member for Toowoomba South and his National Party team are once again demonstrating their one-eyed approach to policy. They use one eye to look out for Green preferences and the other eye to look out for opportunities to support environmentally unsustainable practices.

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