



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 16 May 2001

DINGOES, FRASER ISLAND

Mrs MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (6.37 p.m.): Of the 50-odd recommendations of the report referred to by the member opposite, nine were fully implemented and 29 were in the process of being implemented. Fines were imposed on people who were feeding the dingoes and increased signage was put in place.

On the morning of 30 April, the normally tranquil and pristine environment of Fraser Island was disturbed forever by nature turning on two beautiful children. Two brothers set out for a walk, as children do and as my children have done on Fraser Island. On this occasion the boys were followed by dingoes. Perhaps frightened, the elder boy ran, was chased, tripped and became the prey. Young dingoes learn to kill.

Despite the father's understandable appeal to be left in privacy to mourn the loss of his little one, much has been said. This tragedy has been discussed in the press, in our homes and in homes worldwide. The tragic incident has affected every person sitting in this room. There but for the grace of God goes my child. We cannot imagine the pain of the mother, the father and the brother.

Yes, and a new balance is needed—one that for public safety and the good of Fraser Island dingoes gives the dingoes back their fear of man. The fierce debate has argued the fate of the dingoes and the actions of the government. To lay blame now is morally and ethically bankrupt. Those of us who have holidayed with our children on Fraser have all allowed our kids to enjoy that environment. This tragedy is a reminder that further intervention is required if we wish to continue to enjoy the environment and share it safely with dingoes. The habituated dingoes of concern have been destroyed. Aggressive dingoes have been destroyed. Dingoes will be treated as the wild animals that they are. Those people who stupidly and irresponsibly encourage them will be fined. Please do not lose sight of the fact that a beautiful child has lost his life. His family have to live their lives in mourning.

All of this should not be in vain. Both sides of this parliament should support appropriate management outcomes which are being developed so as to make sure no other lives are lost.

I support the minister's amendment to the motion and have every faith in the actions taken by the government's Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and staff following the recent tragedy. I also empathise with the difficult position in which this tragedy has placed them all.
