



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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FRASER ISLAND

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (6.40 p.m.): Keep it green and keep it clean.

An opposition member: Keep your shirt on!

Ms MOLLOY: And that applies to the member opposite. I entered politics to make a stand on issues which my community wanted championed. One of those issues is the protection of our natural environment. So I will not be intimidated by those who think only in the 'me, here and now' mindset.

I drive a four-wheel drive vehicle, I enjoy Fraser Island and I am more than prepared to support the closure of these roads because it is the only responsible thing to do. To continue to protest against this is laughable. I suggest that those people find a cause that is worth fighting for, such as federal funding to our education system. The people in the gallery would be better placed to teach their children that we are protecting this island for them—a small sacrifice. Anyone who has visited Fraser Island would be aware of the island's natural beauty. It is no wonder that visitors come to Fraser Island from all around the world. Members would no doubt be aware that a number of tourist operators are based in my electorate of Noosa, and a significant proportion of all visitors travel from my electorate to Fraser Island each year.

Fraser Island is managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as a protected area to conserve its natural and cultural resources for nature conservation and nature based recreation. The whole of the island is national park, other than freehold areas such as townships.

Fraser Island, as has been stated, was listed on the World Heritage list in December 1992. With this heritage listing comes a number of management obligations: to protect, conserve and present the World Heritage values of that property. Other management objectives include 'integrating the protection of the area', 'to strengthen appreciation and respect of the property' and to 'strengthen appreciation and respect of the property's World Heritage values, particularly through the educational'—hark, hark—'and information programs and to keep the community broadly informed about the condition of the World Heritage values of the property'.

In achieving these primary objectives, due regard is given to ensuring the provision of essential services to communities within and adjacent to a property and allowing uses of the property which do not threaten the World Heritage values and integrity. Fraser Island met the criteria for World Heritage listing in 1992.

On Fraser Island people can enjoy short walks in this World Heritage area. Camping is also one of the most popular activities and it is not uncommon to see families coming back year after year. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manages a number of serviced camp grounds and day visit areas for the visitors' enjoyment and help reduce camper impact on the fragile coastal dunes. Popular camping sites on Fraser Island include Lake Boomanjin, Central Station, Lake McKenzie, Dundubara, Lake Allom, Waddy Point and Wathumba. There is more than enough for those folk in the gallery to enjoy.

The other feature of Fraser Island that makes it unique is the fact that dingoes are on the island. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service gives everyone who obtains a camping permit a *Dingo Smart* brochure. The message is clear: never feed dingoes, walk in small groups, lock up your food stores, watch dingoes quietly from a distance, do not encourage or excite them—just like some people here—pack away your food scraps, always stay close to your children and tell others how to be

dingo smart. Park rangers have a zero tolerance for people who feed dingoes and fines have recently been increased. This government has recently released a dingo management strategy aimed at reducing the risk and educating the public on how to be dingo smart.

I would urge any members who have not visited Fraser Island to make the effort to go and see first hand the beauty of the island. It is a unique part of the world and it is our duty to keep it that way, not just for our generation, but for future generations. Please heed that. It is not just about us, it is about our World Heritage.
