



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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CHOGM

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (7.18 p.m.): I call on possible protesters to the CHOGM gathering to respect the peace-loving atmosphere of the Sunshine Coast and Queensland. People have a right to different points of view and, as a free society, there are ample opportunities within the law to express those viewpoints. I urge those who oppose CHOGM to respect other people's rights to meet and discuss world issues and to respect our rule of law. The laws are reasonable and are there to protect our citizens and our way of life. Our governments are striving to provide the highest level of security, and I support their efforts in this regard.

In the free world, at a time of such global grief and horror over the terrorist acts upon the United States, we must speak strongly and without complacency about the value of our democratic institutions and the need to strive to keep them strong and our nation free.

At this sad time I also want to place on the parliamentary record my condolences to the nation of the United States and its people. They were there for Australia when our borders were under attack during World War II. And although I was not born at that time, I will never forget their sacrifices. We owe much of our freedom as a nation not only to our own brave servicemen and women but to other nations, such as the United States. Our prayers are with them at this time of sorrow and as we all pursue a just and secure future.
