



Speech by

**JEFF SEENEY**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Hansard 16 May 2001

### **DINGOES, FRASER ISLAND**

**Mr SEENEY** (Callide—NPA) (6.32 p.m.): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Toowoomba South, which urges the House to censure this Labor government for its mismanagement of a whole range of issues, one of which is Fraser Island.

Fraser Island is symbolic of a mismanagement that runs deep through this Labor government. I would like to think that every sensible member of this House would oppose the amendment moved by the Premier. The Premier's amendment seeks to commend the state government for its prompt action in immediately dealing with the threat that was posed to human life by the dingoes on Fraser Island. What absolute absurdity it is for the Premier to come into this House and say that he thinks he deserves to be commended for his prompt action! This report identified the threat to human life that the innocent, young, naive member for Murrumba or wherever she comes from—

**Mrs REILLY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am offended by that comment. I might be young, but I am not naive. I request that the member withdraw the statement.

**Mr SEENEY:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! And it is the member for Mudgeeraba.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mudgeeraba. This report identified two years ago the danger the member spoke about. The government refused to act, yet the Premier comes in here tonight and seeks to be commended for his prompt action.

The government refused to act for philosophical reasons, because it had a Minister for Environment and Heritage who was a philosophical zealot, who refused to face reality and who had his own agenda. Everyone in rural and regional Queensland came to recognise the characteristics of what we called 'Welford's Agenda'. It was a philosophically driven agenda that ignored reality in a whole range of areas. It ignored reality in respect of the management of Fraser Island. It ignored the report that the experts had prepared and presented to the minister.

It took the tragic death of a young person to make the government face the reality of that report. It sickens me to the back teeth to come in here and see a government try to say that its actions should not come under scrutiny because of this tragedy. It is because of this tragedy that the government's actions should come under scrutiny. It is because of this tragedy that the government should be called to account for its actions. Because of this tragedy, the government cannot hide behind arbitrary goals and philosophical management that completely ignores the reality of the situation. That has been characteristic of so many agendas that the Beattie Labor government has pursued, especially in the area of resource management—things such as the RFA, where arbitrary goals were set. 425,000 hectares had to be reserved. It did not matter about the people.

**Mrs REILLY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. What is the relevance to the current debate?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr SEENEY:** The communities affected did not seem to matter. That is the record of the Beattie government we seek to censure tonight. That is the record of the Beattie government, so typified by the tragedy on Fraser Island.

This is the people's House. It is called the people's House for a very good reason. The interests of people should come first in this place. It has taken the tragedy on Fraser Island for the Premier to go on the television and stand with his hand on his heart and say that people are more important than dingoes. They are! We have been saying that people are more important for the last three years. Members should look at my maiden speech. I said it then. They should look at the debates on the RFA and the WAMPs. We said it then. It is people who are important, and it is the effect of these philosophical agendas on individuals and communities that is important. It is because this government has ignored the effects on those people that it should be censured tonight. It should be censured by every member of this parliament.

We support the Premier's actions in culling the dingoes on Fraser Island. The problem is that it is two years too late. It has taken two years for the essence of the issue to be recognised and for the Premier to take action. It is time for the Premier to take control of a whole range of agendas that have been driven by the philosophical stupidity of the loopy Left. It is time for him to take control and make sure that the government deals with the things that matter to people, the things that matter to Queensland, before there are more tragedies. The things that matter to Queensland need to be dealt with.

Time expired.

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