



Speech by

# JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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Hansard 2 May 2001

## DINGOES, FRASER ISLAND

**Dr KINGSTON** (Maryborough—Ind) (10.25 a.m.): I wish to speak about the fatal attack on a young boy by dingoes on Fraser Island. I record my sympathy to the boy's family. The draft Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy was published in April 1999—two years ago. I will quote verbatim from that strategy. It stated—

1. The possibility of a fatality resulting from a dingo attack is real;
2. A cull to a sustainable level will be undertaken if research can show the population is not in balance with natural foods;
3. Under existing regulations, a person who feeds a native animal that is dangerous can be prosecuted;
4. The common law duty of care requires the QPWS to address the safety of people entering and using the lands, water and facilities in the Fraser Island Recreation Area. The management plan recognises that measures can and will be reasonably taken to prevent harm to visitors.

This strategy recognises that dingoes are an important tourist attraction and that some dingoes have developed aggressive tendencies, and that strategies aimed at educating visitors were implemented but were reported as not successful by Twyford in 1994.

Dr Corbett, a dingo expert, was commissioned and he recommended various measures, none of which has been installed. He reported that aggressive interactions can occur following familiarisation and for other reasons: dingoes regarding humans as competitors or intruders into their domain, which they are prepared to protect; and dingoes regarding humans as prey. This category includes young dingoes practising hunting skills. The plan proposed by Fred Williams and Bruce Jacobs has been totally ignored. This plan would give the tourists and the dingoes the best of both worlds.

Time expired.

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