



Speech by

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGERS; DINGOES, FRASER ISLAND

Dr KINGSTON (Maryborough—Ind) (9.51 p.m.): I rise to speak about the lack of skilled natural resource managers within the state framework. Within the various biological departments of this government there is a severe shortage of experienced natural resource management specialists. Going back some 20 years, this state contained within its state departments some of the best natural resource managers in the world. That was acknowledged and respected on the world stage. These skilled biologists have now retired or joined private enterprise. The immediate result of the loss of those practical and experienced people is the emergence recently of a raft of legislation which is idealistic and good in its intent but totally impractical in its implementation. For example, the vegetation legislation is going to cause undue and unnecessary angst all over this country. It ignores the good sense and the practical experience of skilled biologists such as Bill Burrows.

Another issue that was the subject of some debate today is the management of Fraser Island and the management of the dingo population on Fraser Island. There are much better methods of managing that dingo population than those currently being implemented. There is in fact no need to shoot or to terrify dingoes. Such technologies have been in place in Victoria in various dingo farms for over 20 years, and humans and dingoes have been in close association for 20 years on such establishments without one unfortunate incident.

In what I would class as the good old days some 20 years ago, many of those natural resource managers were good friends of mine. I used to refer to them for assistance when confronted with a technical problem. These days, when I am confronted with a technical problem with legislation—

Time expired.
