



Speech by

JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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DINGOES, FRASER ISLAND

Dr KINGSTON (Maryborough—Ind) (10.27 a.m.): Alan Wilton of the University of New South Wales now has a DNA test to identify purebred dingoes. He also has a mitochondrial test, which is shedding some light on the origin of the dingo and the number of animals which initially entered Australia. He has identified that there are very, very few populations of dingoes that can be confidently regarded as purebred. Work he did four years ago on dingoes from Ely Creek on Fraser Island led him to believe that those animals were purebred. He expects to finish his current DNA tests on the culled dingoes from Fraser Island in a few weeks time. Those results will be important in the reformulation of a management plan for the Fraser Island dingo.

This House needs to realise that identification of purebred animals by Corbett and thus this government has relied on skull measurements of dead animals. With Wilton's success live animals can be tested, and this test is much more accurate. The government also needs to realise that there are differences of opinion amongst Australia's dingo experts. For instance, Alan Newsome from CSIRO Wildlife has different views from those of Corbett. A recent article in the professional journal the *Veterinarian* is very critical of Corbett's reports regarding Fraser Island. Wilton identifies that the dingo and the dog are quite different in their behaviour of breeding. Dingoes breed once a year. Hybrids tend to breed twice a year. Thus hybrids are likely to have an increase in litters over time. It is thus possible that hybrids will have a much more severe impact on populations of other native species. Certainly the hybrids that I see appear to be much more aggressive despite the fact that we maintain on my land a high population of kangaroos, and thus dogs are well fed.
