



Speech by

ANDREW McNAMARA

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 18 April 2002

TOURISM, RACING AND FAIR TRADING [MISCELLANEOUS] BILL

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.30 p.m.): I rise to support the Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2002. This is important legislation for my electorate of Hervey Bay in particular, which is very heavily dependent on tourism and small business for jobs and which has an enormous number of clubs and incorporated associations which do so much good work. Efficient and effective administration of the Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading is very welcome, and this omnibus bill affects some 20 acts in various ways. Amendments to the Business Names Act, for example, will provide more flexibility for businesses in lodging forms, making payments and renewing registration. This will be welcomed by all small businesses in my electorate, so many of which service the tourism industry.

Fraser Island is the outstanding tourism asset in my electorate, and I want to quickly clarify some comments in the media following the concerns I raised during a contribution to the Matters of Public Interest debate on Tuesday. The local ABC Radio is very fair in its coverage of public affairs in Hervey Bay and the broader Wide Bay. However, I understand that the morning presenter, Carol Colville, said on her show yesterday morning that rangers had encountered resistance from FIDO, the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation, in enforcing the dingo management strategy and that I had criticised FIDO. Of course I said nothing whatsoever in relation to FIDO in my speech on Tuesday. I was referring to the unhelpful actions of the so-called Friends of Fraser, a very different kettle of fish. I am sure that this was just an unintentional slip of the tongue by Ms Colville, but for the record I have had nothing but cooperation and assistance from the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation since being elected to this place.

Mr Terry Sullivan: FIDO do very constructive things for Fraser Island, don't they?

Mr McNAMARA: I take the interjection from the member for Stafford. Indeed, its motives are pure and it does very good work. Undoubtedly we do not agree on all issues, but all discussions which I have had with FIDO have been conducted with courtesy, goodwill and openness.

I also note that the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* has covered my comments in this matter in a story published in today's paper. Regrettably, the story wrongly states that I criticised the member for Maryborough for provoking and obstructing rangers by his support of the Friends of Fraser Group. This is plainly wrong. As anyone reading *Hansard* will see, I criticised the member—quite justly—for urging an island resident in a facsimile, a copy of which I tabled, to obstruct and incite rangers in their application of the dingo management plan. I table once again for the benefit of the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* a copy of the letter from Dr Kingston which, although it was the point of my comments in the Matters of Public Interest debate, was completely unreported on in today's article.

I note in closing that the paper considers my comments about the member for Maryborough's ill-considered efforts to frustrate measures designed to save human life to be vitriolic. I wonder what it makes of the unparliamentary and insulting observations about our hardworking rangers contained in the member for Maryborough's letter. This was also not covered in today's newspaper article. I commend the minister, her ministerial staff and her department on the valuable and worthwhile amendments contained in this bill, which I commend to the House.