



Speech by

Mrs D. PRATT

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard 26 November 2002

DOG IMPOUNDMENT

Mrs PRATT (Nanango—Ind) (10.29 a.m.): It is bad that we judge a dog on its appearance alone, as the law now stands: if it looks like a dangerous breed, it must be. The recently high media profile of a court case about a dog called Joh in Kingaroy emphasises the point I am trying to make. Debate over the future of Joh raged in the region for several months, and the local paper carried dozens of letters from the community over several weeks by people who in the majority supported the stance of Joh's owner that the dog was being destroyed on unreasonable grounds. I am the first to admit that several breeds of dogs do look vicious and make most people wary about approaching them.

I now table a non-conforming petition. Joh was impounded for several months. The petition specifically states that in cases like this where extended time of impoundment is necessary due to legal proceedings an animal should be housed in more humane conditions, such as the RSPCA shelter rather than a pound. The petition has a good point in that there is virtually no contact with humans in council pounds as compared with RSPCA facilities. The main point of the petition, however, is that a dog not be deemed dangerous—

Time expired.