



Speech by

**Rosa Lee Long**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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## **NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**Ms LEE LONG** (Tablelands—ONP) (9.57 pm): There are a number of iconic sports that are integral to the bush character. High among them are the traditional campdrafts, rodeos and cutting events where a wide range of age groups can take part in horse sports centred around the traditional cattle handling and riding skills of the drovers, jackeroos, jilleroos and horsemen of legend. But they and the clubs that organise and support them have been dealt a cruel blow by this Beattie government. In its blind pursuit of red tape it has decided to impose NLIS tagging and reporting restrictions on the cattle used in these sporting events. This Beattie government insists that the purity of the NLIS system must be preserved regardless of whom it hurts.

In the eyes of the bush, that brutal extremist position ignores the reality of the matter. Cattle at these campdrafts, rodeos and cutting events are almost always donated. They are taken to the event, used for the event and then returned to their home properties. They are usually cattle that are not ready for immediate sale. Until 1 January this year organisers have been allowed to use what was called a mob permit to cover this process, but now the full force of the National Livestock Identification System law is to be enforced. It will mean, for example, that a grazier who has previously donated cattle, loaded them on to a truck and then had them returned after the event with a minimal amount of effort will now have to tag and record each and every beast that leaves his property even though it is just on a temporary basis, probably just for two days for those sporting events. His 'donation' will suddenly cost him heavily, both in time and money. The clubs and country arenas where these events are held will be forced to install expensive tag scanning equipment to comply with this government's red tape.

These sports cater for entire families. At times, up to three generations of one family compete at these events, which often raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the local ambulance and other community organisations. I understand that there are—or were—some 200 campdrafting events across Queensland alone each year. To sound the death knell on this kind of sport will indeed be a great loss to this state as a whole. The ripple effect will be felt across many communities.

Unless the mob permit system or something similar can be implemented, all sports involving cattle are likely to collapse under these huge new costs and in the face of the massive amount of extra work volunteers and cattle owners will be forced to carry out. The current arrangement shows either the arrogance of this Beattie government or its total lack of understanding and compassion when it comes to the bush. Clancy and his mates would not cop it for quids.