



Speech by

**Peter Dowling**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

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## **NATIONAL PARKS, ACCESS**

**Mr DOWLING** (Redlands—LNP) (10.02 pm): Tonight I rise to bring to the attention of the House an email that came across my desk. I table the entire email but I will just read extracts from it.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 23 November 2009, from Wim Schneider to Mr Dowling MP regarding changes within Queensland national parks [\[1489\]](#).

The email stated—

The purpose of this email is to express my concern over the changes within the Q1d National Parks. I am not sure what I expect as a result of this email. Maybe just the opportunity to express my anger.

And I am doing that on his behalf. He continued—

The apparent attitudes of the Q1d NP's comes up in conversation on a regular basis.

I had the opportunity this last weekend (whilst camp in a Qld NP) to talk to a park ranger.

I will cut to the chase. He said—

I then approached the subject of changers to the park camping areas themselves. Over time there has been an increase in areas closed off by bollards. The ranger then explained that that was due to a conscious decision on the part of NP's to a preference for minimalist (his words) camping. In other words (and he confirmed it) they are moving to tent camping only.

We heard what I expect was the forerunner to that from the Premier this morning. He continued—

Q1d NP's do not want caravans, motor homes or camper trailers in NP's. In his words those type of campers are responsible for the damage and waste within the parks.

The next paragraph stated—

Since when have NP's been given the right to carry out their own social agenda when it comes to any part of NP's operation?

I am a Qld tax payer and as such I have the right to camp in NP's even though I choose not to camp in a tent.

I have camped all my life and my days of camping in a two man tent are over.

This trend is not confined to Qld, it can be seen in NSW as well.

As far as Q1d NP's are concerned, I am being classified as undesirable based on my style of camping.

This morning we heard from the Premier, who said—

The effects of this kind of a downturn on tourism can be catastrophic, especially here in Queensland where tourism dominates the local economies of a number of major towns and cities in our regions and is a key economic driver.

Here we are turning away what have been dubbed the grey nomads in favour of the backpacking fraternity. These are good citizens. These are the ones who fought for the country. These are the ones who gave us the national parks and these are the ones we are trying to freeze out. It is a Nazi attitude to the community by Labor. It is controlling. The government is picking on one group at a time. Tonight, the government is singling out the grey nomads and it is trying to excise them out of national parks. Tomorrow, I suspect the government will be excising bike clubs out of Queensland. It is appalling and should not be allowed to continue.