



Speech by

**Ted Sorensen**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

Hansard Thursday, 4 June 2009

---

## **NON-CONFORMING PETITION, DINGOES**

**Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (10.23 pm): I table this non-conforming petition signed by about 1,300 concerned residents of Hervey Bay who would like to see dingo feeding stations on the island which they feel would help protect tourists and local residents from dingo attacks.

*Tabled paper:* Non-conforming petition requesting the protection of dingoes [339].

Mr Speaker, I would like to draw your immediate attention to dingo management on Fraser Island. My electorate is in uproar over the current treatment of the Fraser Island dingoes. While the dingo management strategy is now being reviewed thanks to the present minister, the ear tagging of the dingoes and the ranger pelting them with slingshots is leading to almost daily negative media coverage of the actions of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the current management of the dingoes.

Let us discover what Uluru and Fraser Island have in common. The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory decided that it would cut food sources by telling people not to feed dingoes. Within a few weeks there was a fatal attack. In Queensland, parks and wildlife closed the local rubbish dumps followed by the burying of fish offal by law. Within weeks there was a fatal attack. Let us hope other governments do not make the same mistake.

One has to ask why the World Heritage listed Fraser Island does not have an interpretive centre as do most other heritage areas in Australia, such as the interpretive centres in the Northern Territory where the local rangers and Indigenous people work together to promote and educate the tourists. The rangers on Fraser Island are only used as an enforcement agency and are not engaged in the promotion of the island. The Butchulla people, the traditional owners of the land, should be more involved in promoting their culture and the care of the dingo. The Butchulla people are appalled at the treatment of their camp dogs and call for the immediate stop to current practices. I urge the government to look to the future of our magnificent heritage and preserve the dingo for all the world to see.

The Dingo Discovery Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre founder, Lyn Watson, has received numerous applications from around the world—Japan, Brazil, America and Europe—wanting to help the pure bred dingo. Fraser Island has a unique ecosystem of which the dingo plays an important part. What would happen if the Fraser Island dingo were to become extinct? I feel it would be the same thing as happened in the dingo fenced villages. Goannas, rodents and snakes are taking up residence in these areas because the natural predator, the dingo, has been locked out.

*(Time expired)*