




Speech by

Howard Hobbs

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Hansard Tuesday, 29 May 2012

MOTION: MUNGKAN KANDJU NATIONAL PARK

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (5.46 pm): It is my pleasure to second the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier. I say to the ALP members in this House: why don't you move on? This started in 1974—38 years ago, for heaven's sake. The reality is that Labor have done nothing over many, many years apart from take the Indigenous vote. That is really all you have ever done. What have you really done to improve the lifestyles of many Indigenous people in this state? Very, very little. In fact, if you want a history lesson, I can recall when Labor finally came to power in 1989. And guess what happened in the year or two after that? There was a riot outside Parliament House by the Indigenous people. They nearly tore the gates down of this place because of your inaction and the mistruths you told—the hope that they had that you would do something and you did nothing at all. Of course nothing has changed.

You took away their dignity in many instances. You have kept them subservient all the way through. All you have done is try to control their access to alcohol rather than looking after the people in the way they should be looked after, such as getting kids to school. You have not done a great deal in relation to helping them expand their operations to give them some dignity. We want to give them some private freehold land. We want to have a joint approach to conservation and to the whole management aspect of northern Queensland and any parts of national parks.

The wild rivers legislation, as the Deputy Premier mentioned, was purely a political stunt that was done by the ALP in a deal with the Greens to try to get some armchair support from people in the cities. The reality is that it did not work. The Indigenous people would not wear it. They opposed it all the way down the line. They told us when we travelled in the north that the wild rivers legislation under the ALP was just not going to fly.

Let me talk about the real jobs that we need to create. What have you done in relation to providing real jobs for Indigenous Australians? Very, very little. In fact, what I think people should consider in this debate is just how little you have done. What have you done to support home ownership? What has been done by this ALP government over many years, nearly 20 years, to support homeownership in Indigenous communities? You have done nothing. There were many opportunities. What about helping them to build their own homes and training the Indigenous people? This is what we need to do. They need to be able to go out there and build their own homes. We need to give them the skills to do that. What did you do? You imported homes that were built elsewhere and you expected them to live in them and appreciate what you did for them. You did nothing for them.

We have to do more. I think the handover of that land by the Premier was a significant move. Whatever happened 38 years ago does not really matter. We move on. One of the great injustices that you people keep talking about relates to the electoral system. Things have moved on. We have changed. I think people need to recognise that. You cannot keep going back to the Boer War or whenever. The reality is that you have to move on. Let us do that and take these people with us.

Let us make sure that when we try to help these people we do it with some long-term commitment so that there is something for their kids. They want their kids to be trained. We do not want them brought up the way those opposite ran this state. We want Indigenous communities to have the right to live like

anybody else—to have ownership, to have their children trained to ensure they are not living the way those opposite allowed them to live for such a long time.

The amendment moved by the Deputy Premier really does go to the heart of where we have to be with Indigenous affairs. We are giving Indigenous people jobs and training and taking a joint approach to conservation. I believe that this amendment should be supported.