



Speech by

GLEN ELMES

Member for Noosa

Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability

Hansard, Wednesday 2 September

Parkhurst, Ms J; Fraser Island

Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (11.47 am): I have only been in this place for three years but, like all of us, I came here with a set of basic beliefs that were at the heart of what I am as a human being.

Having said that, on Tuesday 25 August Jennifer Parkhurst, a Fraser Island protector and photographer, was awoken at 7 am at her home in Rainbow Beach and met at her front door by a Queensland police officer and five officers from DERM who had a search warrant for her residence issued under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.

If Jennifer was a terrorist I would support the action taken, but she is not. She has dedicated her life to the wellbeing of Fraser Island, and its dingoes in particular. I want all members, and particularly female members opposite, to imagine their reaction at being woken up, unable to have a shower or even brush their hair, and then having their two-bedroom unit invaded by modern-day storm-troopers for six hours.

The police officer spent most of the time outside, while department officers--public servants--removed hard drives, fingered through personal photos and videos, searched through every cabinet and bookshelf, under beds and floor rugs, and through every private and intimate part of her home. I do not know what has become of the Labor Party that once stood up for human rights.

I certainly do not know what has become of the members opposite, particularly the female members and the minister, who once would have marched through the streets in protest against what is a gross abuse of Jennifer Parkhurst's civil liberties.

Legislation that allows for legalised home invasions on trivial charges must be changed, as must the culture of rangers on Fraser Island. Information coming to me on a daily basis highlights a long series of bad planning decisions and mismanagement on the island.

The time has come for this Labor government to protect the rights of its citizens and hold a full inquiry into the management of Fraser Island.
