

Pearson tagged 'fly-in, fly-out'

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A QUEENSLAND Labor backbencher has used parliamentary privilege to brand indigenous leader Noel Pearson a "fly-in, fly-out" Aboriginal leader, in an extraordinary counter-attack over his opposition to the state's wild rivers preservation law.

Pine Rivers MP Carolyn Male yesterday accused Mr Pearson of having a vested interest in opposing wild rivers protection in far north Queensland.

"Rather than being a traditional owner or an Aboriginal leader looking out for the best interests of all Aboriginal peoples, he has become a fly-in, fly-out leader -- a bit like (Liberal National Party leader) Campbell Newman," she told state parliament.

"Someone more interested in what he can extract for his family and friends and someone who does not care about the long-term effects of this grab-and-run policy."