

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc..

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To: The Honourable Kate Jones, MP
Minister of Environment and Resource Management.
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COLLARING or CULLING. THE FRASER ISLAND DINGO.

The Dingo is protected in Queensland National Parks as a native species, (*Nature Conservation Act 1992*,) and the State Government has a legal responsibility to conserve these populations and an obligation to ensure that the management of the dingo is ethical and humane.

The latest project by Qld. National Parks (DERM) is to attach tracking collars to 20 dingoes in the hope of monitoring the animals movements over the Island.

Whilst research is needed scientist's question the ethics of using such an invasive device and dingo experts believe these collars will be even more detrimental than the ear tags.

It is widely considered by experts that no surveillance method should be used which is likely to interfere with the animals' ability to function naturally, but these tracking collars will disrupt normal dingo behaviour, some animals may be ostracized or even killed by other members of the pack, the collars will also interfere with normal foraging and hunting, so how will the data collected be deemed to be accurate?

Tourists and local residents are appalled on seeing these cumbersome collars and there are many doubts as to veracity of this methodology, we ask the Minister Ms. Kate Jones and Qld National Parks (DERM) the following questions..

What ethics/approvals have been obtained and from where?

What studies have been done to ensure these devices will not interfere with natural behaviours such as hunting, whelping, feeding pups and interacting with other pack members?

What University staff are involved and what are the credentials of those involved in this study?

Sub-adults are mentioned, what is the actual age of the animals collared?

What is the purpose of locating dens? In the past den identification has not prevented the areas from being burnt out.

There is some confusion as to how the release mechanism functions. How will those monitoring know when an animal is entangled, unable to hunt or care for pups? Especially since the rangers leave the Island in the evening.

What is the explicit purpose of this research and what is hoped to be achieved?

If the results indicate the dingoes are in crisis, what will be your response?

How do you reconcile the use of these collars with your policy of regarded dingoes as "wild, native animals that should be interfered with as little as possible" and of "conserving the species in a near-natural environment."?

This study is inhumane and obviously inhibits the natural behaviours of the animals, the collars should be removed, the project suspended forthwith and a more ethical method of research examined..

Sincerely,

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc..