

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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To: Mr. Yh Jung,
Asia and the Pacific Section
WHC/UNESCO
France.

Further to our letter. Dated 12th. April 2010 regarding the plight of the Fraser Island Dingoes, it has come to our attention that Qld. National Parks (DERM) are presently trapping dingoes on the Island, for what purpose is unclear. Instead of sanctioning tourists for inappropriate behaviour DERM are taking note of every dingo seen to approach a visitor. We are concerned that over the Easter period there will be more dingo/people encounters which will lead to more animals being culled.

It is the visitors who are interfering in the daily lives of the dingoes, and Researchers, such as Adam O'Neill. Director of C&A Environmental Services Qld. Dr. Ernest Healy, Senior Research Fellow at Monash University and Dr Ian M Gunn, Honorary Associate, Dept of Physiology, Monash University, all strongly believe it is time the government considered adopting an "enter at own risk policy" as is the case in National Parks worldwide, and also place a moratorium on further culling, as this fractures the dingo packs and is the cause of abnormal behaviour, such as aggression.

The 4 wheel drives and large 52 seater buses presently permitted to drive on Fraser Island are destroying the pristine beaches and causing erosion within the rainforests, it is not uncommon to have 9 to 10 buses at one lake with over 1000 individuals aboard, these areas are becoming contaminated with refuse.

Although it has been considered, tourism has not been capped and continues to expand to the detriment of the Island.

Species affected since World Heritage listing include:

Pied Oyster Catcher: impacted

Lively Skink: impacted

Brahminy Kite: impacted

Stone Curlew: impacted

Noddy Terns: impacted

Ghost crabs: impacted

Aboriginal sites: impacted

Osprey: impacted

Large centipede: impacted-Orchid Beach

Dingoes: impacted -culled- causing trophic cascade impacting other species.

ABUNDANT: Torresian crow. Funnel web spiders.

(Information courtesy Fred R. Williams. author/historian.)

Eastern ground parrot: not sighted

Jabiru: impacted
Brolga: Impacted
Long-nosed Potoroo: impacted
Swamp Wallaby: impacted
Many small mammals such as the water-rat and bandicoots: impacted
(Information courtesy Norma Hannant. Fraser Island resident 37 years. Member
Community Advisory Committee for the World Heritage area of Fraser Island.)(CAC)

Qld National Parks (DERM) maintain there has been no loss of species, but in fact have gained two. This cannot be substantiated as no regular surveys are conducted and current methodology is questionable.

The fire regime is also of great concern as it regularly coincides with the breeding season of the dingo, and pups have been burnt in their dens. In 2009 one such fire escaped resulting on the loss of 200,000 hectares and countless wildlife.

It is apparent World Heritage listing has not been advantageous to Fraser Island, the Tourism Industry has taken precedence over the flora and fauna of the Island and is affecting the viability of this fragile ecosystem.

Please see attached a record of the Island as stated by Mr. Pat O'Brien, President of the Wildlife Protection Assoc. of Australia.

UPDATE: Information has just arrived confirming a 9 month old puppy, affectionately known by Fraser Island residents as Staples, (due to the number of staples attached to his ear tag,) has just been trapped and culled. This puppy was one of three pups remaining, the fate of the remainder of the pack, including adults is unknown.

Eye witness reports suggest the animal was being teased by children and an open bucket of fish was within sight, subsequently the animal bit someone, but instead of the visitors being chastised, rangers targeted the dingo, who was then reported and killed.

This is common practice, with rangers seemingly looking for incidents and visitors not being held accountable for their actions.

We ask for your urgent assistance in preventing any further degradation to this unique and special Island, an important part of Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

Kind Regards,

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.