

# Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Fraser Island pup ear tag fiasco..

Qld. Parks & Wildlife Service continue to destroy and mutilate Fraser Island dingoes, the animals they are entrusted to protect.

This can be demonstrated by the destruction of a number of Indigenous camp dogs, the obsessive hunt for a juvenile dingo known as 'Inky', the infection and mutilation of Inky's ear caused by an ear tag, and now the mutilation of a pup due to another ear tag fiasco.

Recently a pup was caught entangled in fishing hooks and QPWS were quick to point out that they had treated the injury, an obvious propaganda exercise, all injured animals should be treated, it should not be such a rare occurrence as to warrant publicity.

At that time it was not mentioned that this pup was also tagged. QPWS have now admitted.. *'While rangers were caring for it, they took the opportunity to ear tag the animal. Monitoring this dingo for recovery will be aided by the ear tag.'* The poorly applied tag has mutilated the pups ear which will significantly inhibit the pups ability to hunt. This could also cause the animal to be rejected by the family group.

We ask QPWS to explain, how this tag will aid in monitoring the pups recovery?

Mr Ross Belcher stated recently... *'Photos of dingoes with ears not erect are old photos...some tags are too high most done these days are low'*... This is not the case.

We ask QPWS to explain the justification for permanently mutilating this pup?

In a further statement QPWS claim, *'Ear tagging on Fraser Island dingo pups....is undertaken with Animal Ethics approval'*.

We ask QPWS to explain who is the relevant Animal Ethics Committee and give reference to the approval obtained?

Mr Ross Belcher, Regional Manager, also stated at a meeting in 2010 that *'the QPWS do not ear-tag Fraser Island dingoes under six months of age, nor any animal that weighs under 10 kilograms.'*... and more recently *'The dingo in question weighed over 10 kilograms.'* This pups weight is certainly questionable, regardless, the animal was definitely under 6 months of age. It is suggested by 'best science' that no animal be handled under 12 months of age.

We ask QPWS to explain why they ignored their own recommendations?

Since this pup will no longer be able to hunt successfully and possibly be excluded from the family group it will commence scavenging from human food sources and will ultimately be destroyed. This is the fate that awaits another Fraser Island dingo and the cycle continues.

**There is no explanation that can justify the interfering and maiming of this pup, it simply should not have occurred..**

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