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MEDIA RELEASE.

Review of Fraser Island dingo management. 16th July 2012

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc. would like to clarify a number of misconceptions and misinformation printed recently in the media (Courier- Mail July 11). The statement inferring that Hervey Bay MP Ted Sorensen suggested hand-feeding of dingoes is completely incorrect. By definition hand- feeding is literally '*feeding (an animal) by hand.*'

Mr. Sorensen and SFID have never recommended such an approach. Intoxicated tourists who have teased animals with food have then been nipped, the animal is subsequently destroyed for being aggressive and the tourists are not held responsible for their actions.

If it is determined by 'best science' that there is not sufficient natural prey to sustain a viable population then supplementary feeding, such as feeding stations or aerial drops would be options to consider.

The argument that feeding would inflate the population is not substantiated, previous to World Heritage listing animals had access to dumps, were regularly fed by locals, fishers and forestry workers, the population was self-regulating and remained stable due to natural attrition.

Considering there are over half a million visitors to Fraser Island each year it would not be unusual to find human based food in the dingo diet. It is a sad fact that many dingoes are killed by 4 wheel drives and it is a sad fact that just as many are destroyed by QPWS staff.

A recent report obtained through Right to Information stated an animal died during a collaring experiment due to hyperthermia. (Necropsy report 20 May 2011.) Other causes of death listed include 'rifleitis' and 'a shot of hot lead'. These are not claims, but can be substantiated and are not acceptable by any standard of decency.

Animals are coded 'aggressive' for not exhibiting sufficient fear, damaging property and playing near visitors. It is apparent that any dingo sighted is given a code violation.

It is hopeful that the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy (FIDMS) review will introduce new and innovative strategies that focus on the welfare, protection and humane treatment of the Fraser Island dingo.

Cheryl Bryant. Publicity Officer. Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.