

## **Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.**

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

#### **Fraser Island dingo destroyed on New Years day.**

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The Qld. government has ordered the destruction of another Fraser Island dingo to herald in the New Year. According to QPWS the animal was humanely euthanised on New Years day after allegedly displaying aggressive behaviour.

The holiday period on Fraser Island is a perilous and dangerous time for the wildlife, with the influx of tourists on the Island encounters with dingoes are likely, and the result is always the same, animals are destroyed and visitors are rarely held accountable for their behaviour.

Animals are coded A to E according to their crime, a misdemeanour, such as loitering near a campground or watching fishers is a Code C and the dingo is classified as a nuisance. Code E is nipping and the animal is destroyed. It seems all human contact is being classified as aggression. The codes are usually applied according to tourist observations. Tourists who have never seen a dingo before and have no knowledge of dingo behaviour. Tourists who are encouraged to report any sighting, be it an animal walking along the beach or sniffing a bait bucket.

It is not acceptable to continue the destruction of these animals, both on conservation and compassionate grounds. Tourists need to be responsible for their own personal safety and an 'enter at own risk' policy implemented.

In a statement released by QPWS it was considered that this particular dingo .. 'presented an unacceptable risk and the decision was taken to capture and humanely destroy the animal', further to this statement, the Minister for National Parks, The Hon. Steve Dickson added, 'this action improves visitor safety in the area.'

As long as QPWS continue to manage the dingoes rather than protect and conserve, we can expect more dingo deaths. Perhaps the government should be mindful this is an election year.

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