

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

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **Dingo destroyed on K'Gari (Fraser Island) after incident with tourists.**

It has been disappointing and disturbing to again see the K'Gari dingoes in the media for all the wrong reasons and again we see visitors not following the rules and recommendations regarding dingo safety.

In January a 6 year old boy was bitten when he ran over a sand dune and into a family group and now a child and mother have been bitten because they panicked and ran.. One of the fundamental rules is 'do not run'. The unfortunate consequences when people panic is that someone is injured and another animal or animals are destroyed.. Fortunately the boy and mother will recover but the fate of the dingoes responsible is now sealed.

It has been a long time since we have even seen a dingo family group on the Island and now that family has been destroyed. Already one animal has been killed.

When one or more animals are destroyed the social dynamics of the family group is changed and the overall destabilising effect on the population can be long term. "Removing potentially reproductive animals, male or female, may exacerbate genetic instability of the population." (A. O'Neill et al 2016) and this is without considering the simple fact that more healthy, vibrant animals will die unnecessarily.

Killing dingoes is a stop gap solution to an ongoing problem involving negative dingo/human interactions. The Island is a great money spinner for the government and the government now needs to re-invest that money into investigating long term solutions rather than accepting lethal control as the only option.

With Easter approaching we have even more concerns for the dingo population.

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