

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE.

Concerns for collared K'gari (Fraser Island) dingo.

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A photo of a K'gari dingo depicting her sleeping with a large satellite tracking collar around her neck has been attracting media attention. The photo, taken in February this year, has raised concerns regarding her general health. More recent photos taken this month seem to suggest she has lost condition.

Locals and Island residents familiar with the dingo, identified by her tag as (Ryellow18F), have voiced their concerns regarding her general appearance but QPWS maintain that her health has not declined.

The female dingo was originally collared 12 May 2019 at 13.8K, if her condition has deteriorated over the past few months the overall weight of the collar may now exceed the recommended standard which, according to experts, should not be more than 3.5% of the body weight of the animal.

The purpose of the collar is to monitor her movements and interactions with visitors. Due to people feeding her she has incurred a number of negative interaction reports and is considered a high risk animal. In the past any high risk animal would have been immediately euthanised.

We understand the collar has assisted QPWS in collecting data and, to date, has prevented the animals destruction. Our concern is her general health and well being.

A QPWS spokesperson informed SFID that the collar will remain on her until at least September in order to monitor her movements and behaviour as tourists return to the Island. An assessment will then be conducted as to whether the collar will be removed. This is a long period of time to wear such a large and cumbersome apparatus.

Recent observations of her behaviour have shown she has taken no interest in approaching visitors, ignoring children running and people walking. If this is the case and no further high risk interactions are recorded we would prefer to see the collar removed as soon as possible.

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