

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister upsets Indigenous Elders. More killing on Fraser Island.

The Minister for National Parks, Sport, Recreation and Racing, Steve Dickson, has upset the Butchulla people of Fraser Island by endorsing the destruction of two camp dogs.

Indigenous Elder, Aunty Mallie, from K'Gari camp, contacted Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc. and was extremely distressed as she discovered that two of their dogs had been shot by QPWS rangers. 'My granddaughter cried and cried and so did I.' commented Aunty Mallie.

One dingo was fatally wounded and the other has been seen with a hole in its neck. Also distressing is the fact that the Butchulla people are forbidden to help the wounded animal and QPWS are currently hunting the dog to finish their previous bungled attempt.

Regional Manager, Ross Belcher considers the animals to be dangerous. Aunty Mallie stated 'He has never seen our dogs so what does he know, our dogs are not vicious.' It was reported that they had nipped a number of visitors, but the local people believe the young animals were playing and this did not warrant a death sentence.

Mr Belcher also believes the shooting of these dingoes was a 'humane' act, but there is nothing humane about the treatment these animals received at the hands of National Park rangers. The incompetence and callous attitude demonstrated by some QPWS staff is not acceptable, but until the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy (FIDMS) review is complete the current policies will continue, to the detriment of the dingo population.

Shooting animals in and around the Indigenous Community and tourists is not only barbaric but completely irresponsible. We believe an explanation is due the Local and Indigenous People.

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