

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Christmas on Fraser Island is a time of concern for the wildlife as dingo deaths continue.

As Christmas grows closer, concerns also grow for the welfare of our Fraser Island wildlife, namely, the Iconic Island dingo. The dingoes will again be under siege by the arrival of hordes of holiday makers. Unfortunately two animals have already been destroyed this year for 'threatening' behaviour, the most recent on the 26th November.

Incident reports indicate this animal, a juvenile female with pups, was being fed and encouraged by visitors, even to the point of attempting to pat her, also children were left unsupervised. This is a recipe for disaster and as a result the animal would be confused and continue to seek out people for food, especially when she is a young, inexperienced female trying to feed her pups.

Numerous warnings were issued but only eight infringement notices. Compliance must be enforced to discourage this activity.

Regardless if these pups manage to survive, the family unit has been destroyed, without parental guidance the pups may then present what authorities consider a 'threat' as they mature, seeking out the easiest food supply, which would be at campsites, and the cycle continues and more animals will die.

According to Qld Parks & Wildlife (QPWS) the highest number of high-risk dingo interactions on Fraser Island were recorded over the past year, this would suggest that current resources are inadequate and management strategies again need review. It is imperative that in depth studies of animals, such as this female, be undertaken to find an alternative to euthanasia. It is not the solution and only perpetuates the problem.

We ask that visitors take time to read and understand the dingo safety rules.

It is recommended that children under 14 camp within fenced areas.

Don't encourage or feed animals.

Don't harass the animals.

Respect their territory and observe from a distance.

If anyone witnesses an attempt to harm or interfere with an animal, such as a deliberate

vehicle strike, it is important that it is reported, the authorities can't act if people don't come forward.

If fortunate to sight an animal be mindful of your actions and don't be responsible for a dingo death.

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