

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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New proposals to manage visitors on K'gari-Fraser Island.

Yesterday at a meeting held in Hervey Bay the Environment Minister, Leeanne Enoch, outlined new measures to prevent negative dingo encounters on K'Gari-Fraser Island.

The Minister has substantially increased fines for feeding dingoes, but we must question if increasing fines will actually change visitor behaviour. Signs and warnings are continually ignored.

There also remains the issue of enforcement, even with increasing the number of rangers it would be logistically impossible to monitor the thousands of visitors that flock to the Island during the holiday period.

Recently visitors observed a ranger warning someone not to interact with a dingo and as soon as the ranger moved on the tourist continued to taunt the animal. Visitors have been seen chasing the animals with sticks and children throwing sand. This is unacceptable

Additional fenced areas are, unfortunately, another necessary measure.

The number of tourists that visit during the holiday periods is unsustainable and the environment and wildlife will continue to suffer, the Minister seems reluctant to address this issue.

These proposals are a positive start and with increased participation of the Butchulla (traditional owners) we hope this is just the beginning.

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