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MEDIA STATEMENT

Tracking collar finally removed from K'gari (Fraser Island) Dingo.   22 Aug 2020

Whilst the public and community applaud the removal of the bulky collar on the yellow tagged dingo, it is important not to lose sight of the reason the collar was put on her in the first place and the fact she is still considered a 'high risk' dingo.

The tracking collar was placed on her in May 2019 to track her movements and interactions with visitors as a number of negative encounters with tourists were reported. Qld Parks and Wildlife made it clear that if she had not been collared last year she would have been destroyed. Under the Fraser Island Dingo Conservation and Risk Management Strategy (2013) any dingo that is 'assessed as posing an unacceptable risk to human safety based on the history of behaviour' is to be euthanized. This could well have been the fate of this animal.

According to QPWS the study has provided valuable behavioural information. The collar was removed because she is due to have pups, but she is still being closely monitored and since the Island re-opened reports of 'high risk behaviour' have resumed.

Therefore it is imperative that visitors give her space. Do not attempt to approach her for a photo or feed her because they think she is 'skinny'. This applies to all the K'gari dingoes. Stay vigilant and report anyone behaving inappropriately.

The question is now that QPWS have collected this 'once in a lifetime, valuable data', how will this information be used to protect the dingo population? 'Yellow tag's story is not over, we hope it is just beginning.

On-the-spot fines for feeding or interacting with dingoes range from a minimum of $2135 per offence, to a maximum of $10,676. Contact: Dingo.Ranger@Des.qld.gov.au Fraser Island Police Station (07) 4123 7911 or 131 444

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