

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

50 Old Maryborough Rd.

Pialba Qld. 4655

Ph: (07) 4124 1979

Email: mkrail@bigpond.net.au



SFID MEDIA STATEMENT.

29 Nov. 2020

K'GARI (FRASER ISLAND) ON FIRE.

The fires on Fraser remain in the headlines and in the hearts of all those concerned about the devastation that is sweeping across the Island. The smoke continues to impact regional areas while the flames devour the vegetation and wildlife.

Whilst the QPWS fire management objectives are 'to protect the public and their communities' and "protect critical infrastructure and assets" many of us are anxious and disturbed by the scale of destruction to habitat. Last estimate was more than 72,000 hectares have burnt since the fires started from an illegal campfire on October 14.

An out of control fire in inaccessible forest on a sand Island is extremely difficult to manage, that is why it is hard to understand why action wasn't taken over a month ago when there was an opportunity to contain it.

The long term consequences of losing so much habitat, especially in a closed ecosystem such as K'gari, are largely unknown. We do know that all species are interdependent and rely on each other for survival, any change in the population of one species can have a flow on effect to all. There are many vulnerable and endangered animals on K'gari, if we lose even one it could irrevocably change the very fragile and unique ecosystem that is the K'gari we know today.

As the smoke and flames continue to fill the air we hope all those fighting the fires on the ground and in the air stay safe and we pray for rain.

Cheryl Bryant (Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.)

Email bellkat@bigpond.com

Ph 07 4125 6056