

SFID MEDIA RELEASE



Dingo encounter on K'gari (Fraser Island)

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A video of a dingo trotting along the beach and then approaching tourists was reported on the local news and posted on social media. The video, released by QPWS, aimed to demonstrate the correct behaviour when approached by an animal. Unfortunately the dingo was portrayed as aggressive and the encounter reported as a Code D Interaction. Below are screenshots of the encounter.



Illustration 1: Vocalizing



Illustration 2: Play Bow



Illustration 3: Curious

The Department of Environment and Science described the encounter as a 'Code D' interaction. A Code D is considered threatening behaviour such as growling and snarling.

The animal in the video was exhibiting typical juvenile play behaviour, there was no indication of aggression or a pending attack and following tourists or vehicles does not constitute stalking. It was not threatening and did not warrant a Code D report.

In the past a Code D could lead to a dingo being destroyed. Therefore it is of concern when an animal is categorized as threatening or high risk, especially when there is no evidence to suggest that is the case.

It is unreasonable to expect dingoes that have grown up surrounded by tourists to all be wary and fearful. They are by nature inquisitive and will approach campsites and sometimes people. This should not always be classified as a negative encounter.

We encourage tourist's to keep their distance at all times, follow the rules and read the information provided. If visitor's do the right thing and don't engage, the animal will move on and there will be no incident to record, just a positive experience to remember.

Cheryl Bryant. (Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.)