

**Assessment of Public Submissions regarding
Dingo Management on Fraser Island**

Supplement 2

to

Audit (2009) of Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy

for

**The Honourable Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability**

by

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SUMMARY

Seventy-one public submissions were examined of which 47 were categorised to receive a standard response, 20 submissions a standard response with additional information on dingo feeding stations, and four submissions a standard response with additional specific information.

1 METHOD OF ASSESSING PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Seventy-one public submissions were received by Corbett in June 2009 directly from the Office of the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability. Submissions were carefully read and categorised to receive a standard response (47 submissions), or a standard response with additional information on dingo feeding stations (20 submissions), or a standard response with additional specific information (4 submissions); as summarised in the Appendix.

2 STANDARD RESPONSE

Fraser Island provides one of the best opportunities in Australia for visitors to see free-living dingoes in a natural environment. Free-living dingoes means that dingoes are given the opportunity to do their natural behaviours such as hunting native prey and settling disputes over space and food with dingoes in neighbouring territories.

Prior to the current dingo management strategy, the Island dingo population was very high because dingoes had free access to both native food and food inadvertently or directly provided by humans. As a result pup survival was unnaturally high and the Island dingo population was greater than that which could be sustained by native food alone. Also, many of the 'settlement' dingoes that had become dependent on 'human-supplied' food sometimes were very aggressive in accessing and defending that food in their 'territories' in human settlements using the same tactics as the free-living dingoes elsewhere on the Island. Those tactics include harassing, biting and sometimes killing their dingo and human competitors.

The problems associated with 'settlement' dingoes has increased in recent years because of the increasingly high number of humans visiting and living on the Island and the removal of unnatural foods including brumbies and waste human food in tips. These problems are not unique to Fraser Island. Similar problems have occurred elsewhere in Australia including Ayers Rock and remote mining villages and the outcome is the same; dingoes are killed until a management strategy is implemented to educate both dingoes and humans about living together.

The current dingo management strategy was developed to ensure the conservation of a sustainable wild dingo population on Fraser Island and that the risk of negative dingo impacts on humans was reduced to an acceptable low level. Over the past 2-3 years, there has been a reduction in the numbers of dingoes observed at visitor nodes and consequently in the number of dingo-human interactions. These results are basically due to the humane destruction of aggressive dingoes, the fencing of major tourist areas and increased public awareness of dingoes via the 'dingo awareness' and Ranger education programs.

The strategy also included research programs to measure both dingo and prey populations in the Island's natural habitats. Recent results indicate that dingoes occur throughout the Island's habitats but most dingoes live in forests and predominantly feed on native prey and thus are independent of human-derived food.

The aim of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy is to manage for self sustaining dingo and prey populations.

Rangers are trained and skilled in assessing dingo behaviour and, when necessary, in hazing problem dingoes or culling aggressive dingoes; and these management actions are regularly reviewed.

Current research incorporates assessment of dingo population dynamics and the abundance of their major wild prey.

The view of the Australian Dingo Foundation that 'Fraser Island dingoes are wildlife and all possible efforts should be made to let them continue to exist as wild animals' concurs with the basic tenant of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Plan.

[REDACTED] (Submission 26)

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[REDACTED] (Submission 39)

Your concern that there is a lack of 'peer reviewed scientific evidence to support dingo management strategies' will be addressed. Recent field research projects on the population dynamics of dingoes and their native prey have been completed and are currently undergoing University assessment. It is anticipated that the major results will be submitted to appropriate peer reviewed international journals.

I understand that all research projects conducted on Fraser Island have been approved by registered Animal Ethics Committees associated with the respective Universities.

APPENDIX

List of 71 Public Submissions and response categories

^a Standard response

^b Standard response & additional information on dingo feeding stations

^c Standard response & additional specific information

1. [redacted] ^a
2. [redacted] ^c
3. [redacted] ^b
4. [redacted] ^b
5. [redacted] ^a
6. [redacted] ^b
7. [redacted] ^b
8. [redacted] ^b
9. [redacted] ^a
10. [redacted] ^a
11. [redacted] ^a
12. [redacted] ^a
13. [redacted] ^a
14. [redacted] ^a
15. [redacted] ^a
16. [redacted] ^c
17. [redacted] ^a
18. [redacted] ^a
19. [redacted] ^a
20. [redacted] ^b
21. [redacted] ^a
22. [redacted] ^a
23. [redacted] ^a
24. [redacted] ^b
25. [redacted] ^a
26. [redacted] ^c
27. [redacted] ^a
28. [redacted] ^a
29. [redacted] ^a
30. [redacted] ^c
31. [redacted] ^a

