



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove



**Queensland
Government**

Ref: BNE41500-1
CTS No. 12360/09 & 13430/09

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	530971550
	11 DEC 2009
MP:	Hon K Jones
Clerk's Signature:	

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 27 October and 11 November 2009 concerning petition numbers 1318-09 and 1339-09 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 27 October and 10 November 2009.

The Petitions request that the House 1) return items seized under warrant from Jennifer Parkhurst 2) Report on hazing and shooting activities of dingoes on Fraser Island 3) Investigate Fraser Island management by the department 4) establish an alternative report into dingo management and 5) establish a situation where Rangers can anonymously express their feelings regarding dingo management.

Items seized from Ms Parkhurst on 25 August 2009 during the execution of a warrant on her residence are currently being reviewed by officers from the Department of Environment and Resource Management. Seized items included computer hard-drives, a lap-top computer, DVDs, memory storage devices, documents and other items. Officers are reviewing and cataloguing up to 10 terabytes of data contained within the digital material. Items that have been copied, catalogued, reviewed and determined to be no longer required as part of the department's investigation are expected to be returned to Ms Parkhurst. Ms Parkhurst has had a number of items returned to her on 3 November 2009, however the investigation is continuing.

The department is fully cognisant of its obligations under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to protect the Fraser Island dingo as a native species and the department is committed to conserving the Island's population. Nevertheless, the department has an equally compelling duty of care to help protect members of the public from aggressive dingo attacks. It is for this reason that any dingo identified as dangerous will be humanely destroyed.

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Departmental policy does not presently include any proposals for the culling of dingoes outside of the dangerous category. Over the last three years, an average of four animals per year have fallen into the dangerous category which has resulted in their humane destruction. Hazing and humane destruction of dingoes by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Rangers is conducted strictly in accordance with the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy.

The QPWS staff includes a wide range of well qualified wildlife and management personnel, whom continuously liaise with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure effective and inclusive management strategies for all of the Island. Some of these stakeholders include the Fraser Island World Heritage Area Management Committee and the Indigenous Advisory, Scientific Advisory and Community Advisory committees. All these committees are regularly briefed on the management of dingoes on Fraser Island.

In the last seven years, the Dingo Management Strategy was reviewed in 2006 and audited in 2003 and 2009. The audits have confirmed that the Strategy is working well to achieve the twin goals of, most importantly, protecting public safety and conserving a sustainable population of wild dingoes. Both the Dingo Management Strategy and the latest audit report are available from the department's website at www.derm.qld.gov.au.

The original Dingo Management Strategy was compiled with input from a wide range of stakeholders and is based on scientific principals aimed at addressing public safety and conservation values. I have confidence in the expertise and integrity of the independent auditor, Dr Laurie Corbett, who is widely considered the world's foremost expert on dingoes. I am also impressed by the expert knowledge and advice of the QPWS dingo management team on Fraser Island who collectively have the most direct and consistent interaction with Fraser Island's dingoes and care passionately about the welfare and survival of these animals.

Both the Dingo Management Strategy and the independent audits have relied heavily on the advice of those Rangers directly involved in dingo management.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Dart of my office on telephone 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', written in a cursive style.

Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability