

Wild Dog & Dingo Community Forum

Gympie Regional Council Biosecurity Unit & Regulatory Services

Sally Maxfield – Coordinator Biosecurity

Joel Bruckner – Senior Officer Biosecurity

30 mins – wild dog information & safety

Jason Griffin – Tin Can Bay Police

10 mins – community awareness

Ryan Woodforde – Coordinator Regulatory Services

10 mins – domestic pet ownership & proposed off leash park



QUESTIONS

Legislation and GBO

- The ***Biosecurity Act 2014*** provides measures to protect our agricultural sector, economy, environment and the community from biosecurity risks.
- Everyone is obligated to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (**GBO**).
- **Queensland Government** – The term wild dog includes dingoes, feral dogs and hybrids.



Categories

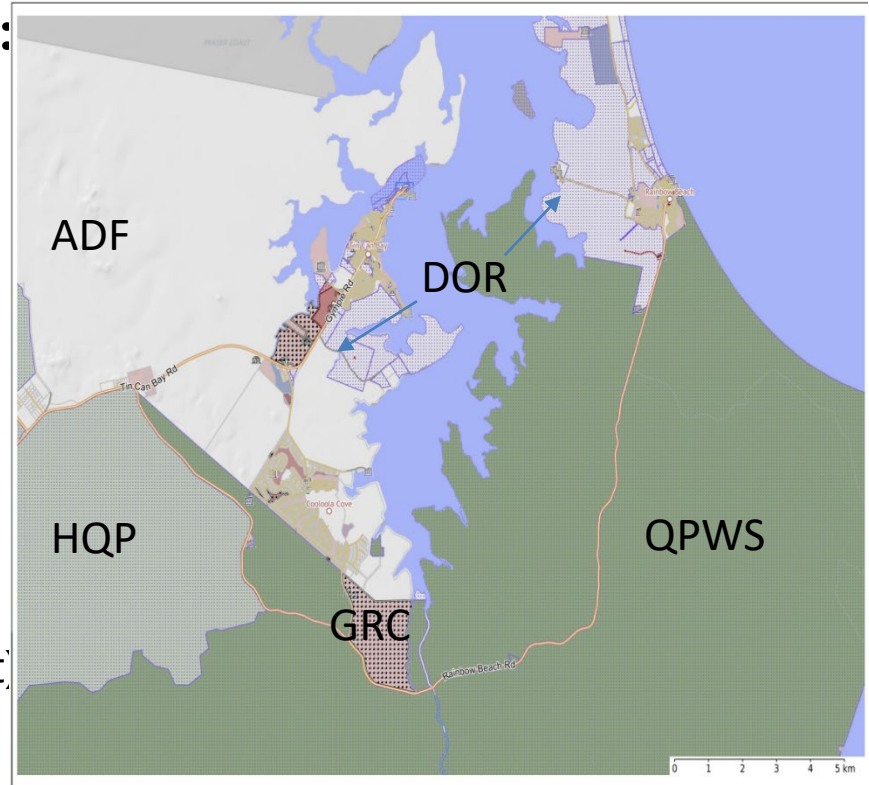
- The dingo is a category 3, 4, 5 and 6 restricted invasive animal under the ***Biosecurity Act 2014***.
- The wild dog is a category 3, 4 and 6 restricted invasive animal under the ***Biosecurity Act 2014***.
- Category (Cat) 3 – Must not **distribute** (sell, release into wild).
- Cat 4 – Must not be **moved**.
- Cat 5 – Must not be **kept**.
- Cat 6 – Must not be **fed**.



Coastal Land Tenure

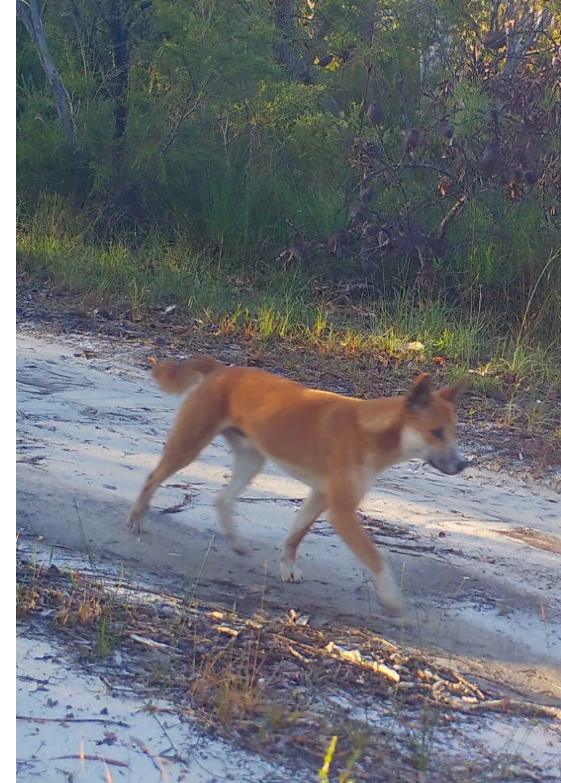
Prime wild dog habitat surrounds the Cooloolo coastal townships, including:

- Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (State Government).
- HQ Plantations (Private).
- Defence - Camp Kerr (Federal Government).
- The Department Of Resources (State Government).
- Gympie Regional Council (Local Government).
- Private Land Developers & Residential Land.



Dingo & Wild Dog Ecology

- Dingoes – commonly ginger but can be black & tan, white or black with white markings.
- Dingoes are the Australian mainland apex terrestrial predator.
- Discrete & stable packs of 3–12 dingoes occupy territories throughout the year.
- March to May is mating season & wild dogs can be territorial (aggressive).
- September – November pups learn to hunt.
- December – February: learning pack rules & showing aggressive behaviour to gain dominance.



Negative Behaviour In Wild Dogs

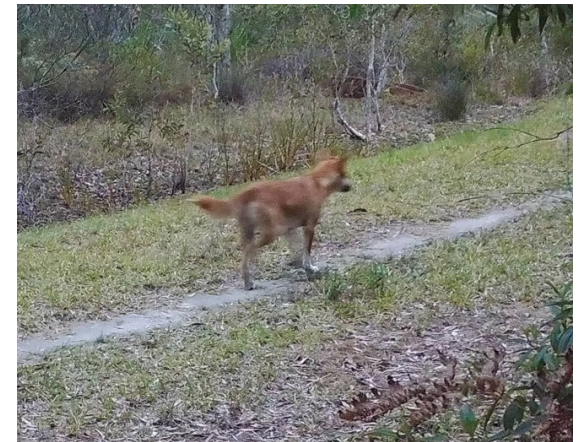
Negative behaviour (aggression) causes:

- **FEEDING** of wild dogs is the most consistent factor in causing escalating aggressive behaviour.
- Not disposing of rubbish correctly.
- Not cleaning BBQ and picnic areas properly.
- Walking dogs off leash.
- Interacting with wild dogs.
- Leaving pet food out overnight.



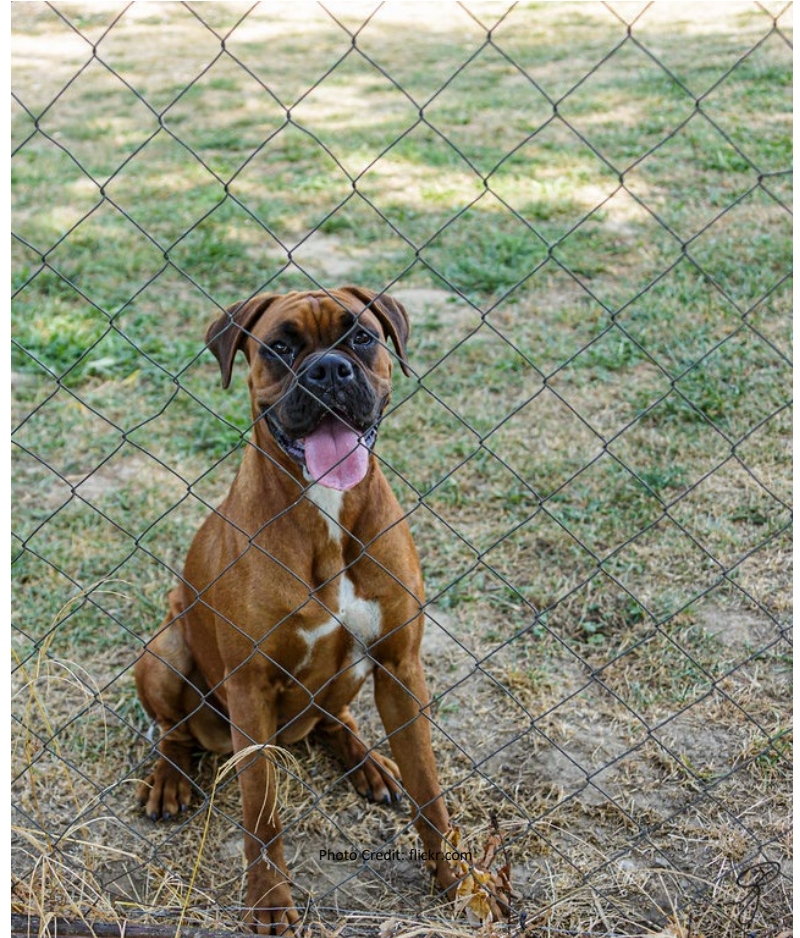
GRC Wild Dog Challenges

- Ongoing feeding of wild dogs.
- Council staff/contractors being harassed, intimidated and threatened.
- Limit to wild dog management options in a residential setting.
- Fragmented land tenures with different management practices.
- Wild dogs cannot be relocated during a control program.
- Community reluctance to implement preventive measures to protect themselves.



Most Effective Action

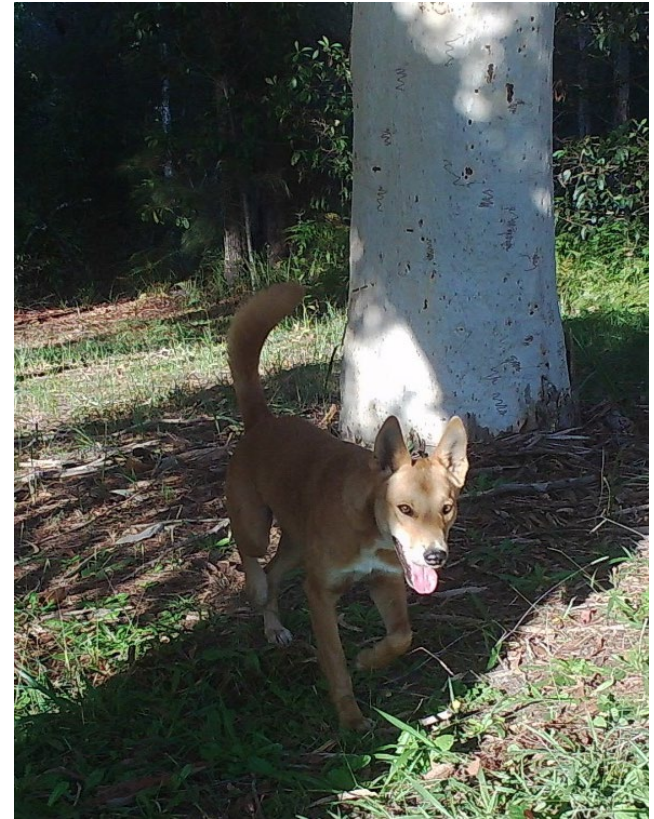
- The **number 1** best way to keep your pets and kids safe, it to **fence** your property with well constructed dog proof fencing.
- Council can provide fencing advice.



Interaction With A Wild Dog

Recommended actions to take when faced with a wild dog:

- Stand at your full height and fold your arms across your chest.
- Face the wild dog, then slowly and calmly back away.
- If you are with another person stand back-to-back.
- Confidently call for help.
- Wait until the wild dog/s are gone before you continue on your way.
- Do not run or wave your arms.



What GRC Can Offer

- Education and advice on managing wild dogs and their impacts.
- Information via mail outs to areas that are experiencing wild dog impacts.
- Temporary and permanent warning signage.
- List of local feral animal control contractors.
- The facilitation of wild dog management syndicate groups.
- GRC funded control programs on council land.
- Other services not relevant to this area – coordinated baiting service, trap loan and bounty.



Report Sightings of Wild Dogs



Report sighting/impact to GRC
1300 307 800



Biosecurity Officers carry out risk assessment.

Ongoing monitoring and data recording. Provide advice to landholders. Warning signage etc.

Monitoring and engagement of contractor to carry out control works.

Biosecurity Officers carry out risk assessment.

Potentially no further action required. Provide advice to landholder. Data recorded.

Responsible Pet Ownership – Tin Can Bay



Responsible Pet Ownership

Kept in a safe, healthy and nuisance free manner that protects the environment & community:

- ID your pet
- Dogs microchipped and registered with Council
- Cats are to be microchipped
- Must be contained on the owner's property at all times
- Seek approval to have more than 2 animals at your property

Dog Safety

- Always walk dogs on leads
- Maintain safe distance from other dogs when walking
- Try not to react or scream if you see a dog that looks agitated and is running towards you or your dog
- Stay calm and avoid eye contact
- Move away as calmly and slowly as possible

Dogs & Water

- Council has responsibility for the foreshore (between high water and low water marks).
- By law, dogs must be on lead on the foreshore, unless:
 - In a proclaimed off-leash area



Attacks

If a dog is attacking your dog:

- Try to stay calm and focused.
- Don't try to separate them yourself (you could be injured or further injure your dog).
- Call your dog away if possible, other owners may be able to do the same.
- Try to distract the other dog from distance with loud noises like a clap or banging objects together (not shouting or making eye contact, as this can increase the attack).
- Report dog attacks as soon as possible to 1300 307 800

Attacks

If a dog is attacking you:

- Try to remain calm and controlled.
- Stay upright, remain still and call for help.
- If you have time, place something between you and them (jacket, stick, wheelie bin).
- If you end up on the ground, curl up into a ball as tightly as possible.
- Most dogs will bite once as a warning or reaction but will not continue.
- Report dog attacks as soon as possible to 1300 307 800

Roaming Animals

- If you notice roaming or stray animals, please contact Council with details on 1300 307 800, or you can submit a customer request via the website
- Take photographs where possible and safe to do so

Barking Dogs

- Step 1 - Consider contacting your neighbour to discuss your concerns
- Step 2 - Consider contacting the Wide Bay Dispute Resolution Service to facilitate a discussion
- Step 3 - Lodge a formal complaint with Council

For more information download Resolving Barking Dog Issues in your Neighbourhood from Council's website