



Fraser Island dingo

Fears Fraser Island dingoes lack diversity

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A NEW study on Fraser Island dingoes published this month has raised conservation concerns about the low genetic diversity of the animals.

The study, published on nature.com, was conducted by researchers from the Genecology Research Centre from the University of the Sunshine Coast.

It is the first study to incor-

porate a large sample set of Fraser Island dingoes, which provides invaluable baseline data for future research.

"The dingo population on world heritage-listed K'gari-Fraser Island (K'gari) is among the most well-known in Australia," the report reads.

"However, an absence of population genetic data limits capacity for informed conservation management.

"We used nine microsate-

lite loci to compare the levels of genetic diversity and genetic structure of 175 K'gari dingo tissue samples with 264 samples from adjacent mainland regions.

"Our results demonstrated that the K'gari population has significantly lower genetic diversity than mainland dingoes with a fourfold reduction in effective population size," the report says.

The study found that there

was also strong evidence of genetic differentiation between the island and mainland populations.

A spokesman from the Department of Environment Parks and Wildlife Service worked with researchers to ensure we had the most comprehensive evidence to best manage K'gari's dingo (known by the Butchulla people as wongari) population.