



Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

FIDO — The Watchdog of Fraser Island

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Aim: To ensure the wisest use of Fraser Island's natural resources

Media Release

Embargoed with the attached Action Plan Until 2.00 pm

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Vehicle restrictions on some Fraser Island roads

Conservationists have asked the Queensland Government to close some roads and car parks near lakes as a part of an Action Plan it presented to Sustainability McNamara today to save Fraser Island's iconic lakes from further degradation.

A delegation from the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO) today presented a five point action plan that was focused on Lake McKenzie and Lake Allom but which also covered ten other visited Fraser Island lakes.

FIDO Project Officer, John Sinclair said that Fraser Island's iconic lakes are vital World Heritage features but they are seriously suffering because storm-water runoff from the roads flows into both lakes and carrying tonnes of sediments and pollutants during every downpour.

FIDO proposes that the Queensland Government immediately start a monthly monitoring of ten of the island's lakes because there has been no testing of the water quality on any Fraser Island lake since 1997 despite FIDO having raised an alarm about the lakes several years ago.

The Queensland Government is being urged to close the road down to Lake Allom and to relocate the car-park and that the road to Lake McKenzie be relocated within six months so that no more road runoff enters either lake.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife recently revealed that it was considering closing Basin Lake for swimming because of the visible decline in water quality but John Sinclair said that Lake Allom and Lake McKenzie seemed to be in more serious decline because of the road run-off which had already created significant plumes extending into both lakes.

FIDO has asked that alternatives including a possible light rail be investigated to prevent run-off from the offending roads and car parks flowing into the lakes.

FIDO has campaigned since 1971 to stop sandmining and to have Fraser Island's outstanding World Heritage qualities recognized and protected and is says that it is determined to pursue the campaign to save Fraser Island's lakes with the same vigour as it fought to stop the degradation of Fraser Island's forests.

“Like the Queensland Government's decision in 1991 to stop the logging on Fraser Island, saving the lakes on Fraser Island is now going to require some inspired political leadership but it must be done if Fraser Island's \$250M annual contribution to the economy is to continue,” Mr Sinclair said.

For further information contact: FIDO Honorary Project Officer, **John Sinclair**, phone **(07) 3397 5889 or 0418 650 535**. Further information at:
<http://www.fido.org.au/moonbi/backgrounders/36%20Lake%20McKenzie.pdf>