



Answer to survival in roo poo

Glenis Green

SENDING kangaroos on "blind dates" could be the answer to increasing their chances of survival in southeast Queensland.

Amberlee Marker, 19, a University of the Sunshine Coast accelerated honours science student, has conducted what is believed to be an Australian-first study of DNA in kangaroo droppings to support her investigations into the genetic diversity of kangaroo mobs.

Fortunately, with the Sunshine Coast University's grounds a popular haven for dozens of Eastern Grey kangaroos, Ms Marker had a ready source of subjects for her research, comparing them with previous studies and wild populations in Brisbane and Charleville.

However, she said preliminary results suggested that some resident 'roo populations were in imminent danger of isolation and inbreeding.

"If further research shows that this is also happening in neighbouring populations, I recommend moving some of the dominant kangaroos of both genders between groups for breeding," she said yesterday.

"They need to be 'dating' outside their family group to be sustainable in the long term."