

**INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 May 2026

Partially
Confidential

Dingo Submission

I live on a grazing property on the New England Tablelands of NSW. Now retired, we had cross merino sheep on our property, together with alpaca guardian animals which, together with adequate fencing and a sensible stock placement plan, helped to prevent stock losses from predation. We never had a problem with dingoes, although we have seen them close by.

Our property is in close vicinity to a number of conservation areas managed by National Parks & Wildlife. Their yearly “management” plan for “wild dogs”, including dingoes, has been annual aerial and ground baiting using 1080 poison baits, a poison that is so hideous that every country in the world (apart from Australia and New Zealand) has banned it. It has no antidote and kills in a slow and agonising way. The EPA has strict guidelines on its use as it has been known to cause poisoning and death of other non-target native and domestic animals, including pets. One of the strict EPA guidelines dictates the removal of carcasses and baits after the specified time period of the programme.

How is it, then, that National Parks can comply with this when there is no way they can know where the aerial baits land?

How can they remove carcasses to prevent secondary poisoning and leaching into waterways when they do not carry out follow up after bait distribution?

Over the last ten years at this property we have noticed a substantial reduction in some native animal numbers, particularly quolls. When discussing this recently with a ranger he admitted some quolls were lost to the baiting programme but considered it collateral damage. This, from someone that NSW taxpayers entrust to conserve our native flora and fauna. Dingoes are also native, yet our National Parks & Wildlife Service is actively killing them. Why?

The answer to that, of course, is the demands of the powerful farming lobby, many of whom see just about any native animal on their land (of course animals don't understand ownership of land) as “pests” and want them killed. This intergenerational “colonial” attitude has seen widespread slaughter of eagles, kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, wombats and koalas even recently, despite the proven scientific benefits of conserving a healthy bush environment. I applaud the 1080 ban stance by local councils such as Manly and Byron Bay.

Dingoes have been hunted, trapped, shot and poisoned under the guise of controlling “wild dogs”. There is no such animal. There are our native dingoes (our only native predator so important in a balanced ecosystem, yet the only native animal not given protection), some feral dogs (domestic dogs that have “gone bush”) and a few hybrids, the result of rare interbreeding between the two (dingoes are usually more likely to kill a dog). The hybrids are not as common as many farmers would have you believe. Dingoes come in a wide variety of colours and can vary in coat thickness, tail length, etc. Recent scientific studies have proven this, two links below - one from Dr. Kylie Cairns and her team of researchers with the University of NSW and the other a CSIRO report:

https://www.kyliecairns.com/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR7yK_dVzoJd9qP3bHcWht2ffVscnC XxB6RpU1W5N0aVhOwMZYZ9EZ3VLFZIEg_aem_MK-

rHwIVRJzwi34NmXuJHQ

https://www.publish.csiro.au/AM/AM24052?fbclid=IwVERDUAMTYDRleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHvZ-8elCN3pWSAAM6iFD0ts4Zkj3T527TZgFSBEV6hvyn8mRbBDzhJIXfnYx_aem_LzGvzKkkpHm7lIXvaM Tzxg

Dingoes (*Canis Dingo*) are genetically different to dogs (*Canis Familiaris*). They are not dogs, as can be shown in the above papers. Proponents of killing dingoes claim they are not native and were “introduced” by humans (some say by Indians, others by Indonesians, others say by aborigines themselves) about 3,000-4,000 years ago. In fact there is no proof at all whether they were “introduced” or not. The time of arrival in Australia is also debatable; the study below by Dr. Cairns, offers a theory they crossed from New Guinea via the land bridge between 8,300 years and 11,000 years ago; considering the dingo is genetically closest to the Singing Dog of New Guinea, this is a likely scenario.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10709-016-9924-z>

Regardless of exactly when the dingo arrived in Australia it has been federally (as well as by the states) classified as being a native as they were here for thousands of years before the 1400 timeline for recognition of native species; well and truly enough time for them to have adapted and evolved

into the truly unique Australian native found nowhere else in the world. You would think that, for this reason alone, we would want to preserve them and not cause yet another species extinction.

Traditionally dingoes, as our apex native predator, have had an extremely important role in a balanced ecosystem, keeping herbivore (kangaroo is still a favoured prey) numbers in check; It is ironic that in areas where the dingo is no longer found due to systematic slaughter, kangaroo numbers have exploded. Dingoes have a complex social/family structure. When hunted/trapped/shot, when the alpha pair are killed leaving young juveniles behind, hunting skills and cautions cannot be taught, leading to inappropriate hunting behaviour of the adolescents. For example an alpha will choose the prey that is unimpeded and easier to hunt, ie with no guardian animals, fencing that is difficult to negotiate, etc. This hunting and prey selection process is passed on to the juveniles.

It is true that since colonisation dingoes have taken advantage of hard-hooved introduced animals such as cattle and sheep just left to wander with little protection mechanisms, leading to grazier lobby groups endeavouring to slaughter them to extinction. However, recently there have been many graziers choosing coexistence with dingoes, using methods such as guardian animals, wise stock placement, fox lights and adequate fencing. Some dingo haters claim this doesn't work on large properties, so I have included a link to a large Central Australian property as a reference, however there are many others across the country who are successfully co-existing with dingoes.

https://www.nintione.com.au/resource/DKCRC-Working-Paper-54_CAGSP-Woodgreen-Station-NT.pdf?fbclid=IwAR37g_USdlaelwR1cwxyzOnzNiVTB3HjnONSgAcx_89hsDThZfPrnUw9kEbM

Landholder's Stories | Landholders for Dingoes

This is a link to a page showing some properties that have made the decision to coexist with dingoes, including Wooleen, a large cattle station in WA.

I humbly suggest that rather than government agencies fund efforts to kill this beautiful animal, the money would be better spent in assisting farmers to transition to ways of coexistence as well as education. Farmers have been known to blame dingoes upon discovery of stock predation, where in fact it has been the result of feral pigs. The Farmers Federation's own statistics indicate that farmer negligence is responsible for far more stock loss numbers than for predation.

Dingoes are now also being recognised as a tool in the fight against feral animals. They have been known to hunt cats, rabbits, feral goats, pigs and foxes. This is just one link, I can provide more if needed.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19Reb8byJT/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

The CSIRO recently produced a study clearly illustrating the use of dingoes in the control of foxes.

https://www.publish.csiro.au/AM/AM21036?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR70Z6ohYPNeKqcHUUgynK7908DmkgS3QmAUEMDSr_jPPDroe3kWZxkfa6Vgug_aem_TouXZ1nrFoxlbaaXSJ17tw

The dingo has been of large cultural significance and a totem for our indigenous peoples, sometimes even considered sacred. This fact has largely been ignored over the last 230 years. Who better to contribute their lore and ancient knowledge to managing dingoes, culturally respected as kin and guardians of Country for millennia? The traditional role of dingoes as camp guards, hunting partners and "living blankets" for our indigenous peoples are widely acknowledged. Just recently a western NSW dingo burial site, around 1,000 years old, has been discovered with clear indications of not only human-level burial rites for the animal, but also feeding rituals over multiple generations, a sign of deep respect and a reflection of the relationship between indigenous people and the dingo.

Signs of 'feeding' ritual at dingo burial site shed new light on bond between First Nations people and canines | Archaeology | The Guardian

Since colonisation Australia has had a shameful record in the extinction of our native species, mostly due to the lobbying of farmers. Please, your committee has the power to change the current pathway of extinction for the dingo.

I would like to see a change in the "management" of our native dingoes by all government agencies, to protect this valuable apex predator which is so important in (1) balancing our fragile ecosystems, (2) as a solution to the eradication of feral animals such as cats, pigs, goats and foxes, and (3) as

an important cultural animal for our indigenous people who, I would suggest, should have a vital role in contributing to a new conservation-based management policy for the dingo.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Yours
faithfully