

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
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Submission to the NSW Animal Welfare Committee

Inquiry into Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales

Submitted by:

Location: Worimi Country, MidCoast NSW

1. Introduction

I am a Worimi/Bundjalung woman working in cultural land management, with over six years' experience supporting Aboriginal communities to care for Country through cultural fire and community-led programs

I write this not only from my professional experience, but as someone who has grown up on Country, watching and learning from these systems over time. Since I was a little girl camping in the Seal Rocks area on Worimi Country, I have witnessed dingoes living on Country as they always have, moving through landscape, keeping balance

Aboriginal people have managed these landscapes for tens of thousands of years through systems of law, knowledge, and responsibility. Those systems maintained balance. What we are seeing today, the rise of invasive species, declining biodiversity, and degradation of Country - is the result of that balance being disrupted. Dingoes are part of that system

2. Core Position

Healthy Country depends on balance. Balance comes from relationships between people, species, and landscape

Dingoes are not simply animals to be controlled, they are cultural beings and ecological regulators. When we remove or destabilise dingoes, we don't solve problems, we create new ones

3. Cultural and Community Perspective

For Aboriginal people, dingoes are part of kinship systems. They are connected to story, law, and identity

In the Myall Lakes region, where there are still healthy, stable dingo packs, I have seen a shift. These dingoes are not threatening to the public. Communities, both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous, are proud to have them on Country and are increasingly protective of them. This represents a real shift in narrative, from fear to respect

4. Observations from Country

Where these healthy dingo packs exist, I have observed changes on Country. In areas where dingoes are frequently present, vegetation condition has improved and grazing pressure appears reduced. These are firsthand observations gathered over years working on and being on Country.



Post cultural burn on Worimi Country. Early regeneration is already visible, but without the presence of dingoes to manage grazing pressure from deer and other hooved species, this recovery is at risk. Dingoes play a critical role in protecting these systems and allowing Country to heal properly

5. Ecological Role and Current Threats

Dingoes play a critical role as apex predators, helping regulate deer, feral cats, foxes, and other invasive species. Without them, these threats increase, and ecosystems decline. These introduced species will do far more damage to Country than dingoes ever could

6. Indigenous Knowledge

Indigenous knowledge systems manage Country holistically - bringing together fire, animals, water, and people. Cultural burning supports healthy ecosystems that allow species like dingoes to function effectively. This requires Aboriginal leadership, not just consultation

7. Recommendations

- Recognise dingoes as culturally significant native animals
- reform policy definitions
- establish Aboriginal-led governance
- shift to balance-based management
- expand cultural land management
- invest in Aboriginal ranger programs and support Indigenous knowledge systems

8. Closing Statement

Dingoes are not separate from Country, they are part of what keeps it healthy. I have seen what balance looks like on Worimi Country where healthy packs still exist

Just as the ocean needs sharks, Country needs dingoes. Without them, we will continue to lose ground against threats like deer, cats, foxes, and goats

If we are serious about restoring balance, we must support dingoes, support Aboriginal leadership, and return to systems that work with Country - not against it

