

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Dingos in National Parks NSW

My name is _____ and with my wife _____ and _____ we have recently returned to her family family operation in Coolah NSW. The properties run around 3000 grown merino sheep for wool production with one in close proximity to Coolah tops national park.

Losses to wild dogs are being experienced periodically with the most recent in march 2026 saw a young hogget mauled. Losses are most obvious at lamb marking when the percentage of lambs marked is significantly lower (about 50%) than the other property further away from the national park. The emotional toll of finding mauled sheep is huge. Along side the impacts of droughts, and other stressors that affect the farming industry, it contributes to higher rates of depression and suicide in farming communities. These losses also have a huge financial impact on the operation.

Due to these losses, many other farmers have chosen to change from sheep. Other forms of farming operations (cattle and cropping), require less labour units than sheep. There are no longer staff required for increased labour required to maintain sheep animal health, no shearers required to crutch and shear and no contractors required for larger tasks such as lamb marking and jet spraying. This loss of viability will see producers exit the industry and will have flow on effects to local community. Fewer sheep sees fewer jobs in adjacent towns, less economic activity in the business of those towns, lower enrolment in local schools etc.

Recently we have completed over 4.8 kms of electric exclusion fencing with plans for a further 3kms to protect livestock from predation threats.

We are along with other graziers in the district members of the coolah wild dog working group, undertaking coordinated trapping and baiting operations. The group has a number of trail cameras installed and has a library dog sightings recorded on feral scan illustrating the number of dogs already outside the park area.

Should the dogs become protected and not controlled inside the park, the numbers will build and expand further outside the park. This process will be repeated across the state. Should this happen the viability of surrounding grazing operations will decrease.

The national parks need to continue to control dog numbers to maintain the native ecosystem and prevent flow on effects. 1080 baiting is an appropriate measure as native wildlife (eagles, goannas etc) are tolerant to it, being derived from a native plant. If the national parks are not going to bait, all national parks should be funded to have exclusion fences installed to contain the dogs within the parks, protecting local farming operations and the general population from dog attacks.