

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 1 June 2026

The systematic culling of dingoes must be brought to an end. As Australia's apex predator, the dingo plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining ecological balance – regulating populations of feral animals like cats, foxes, and rabbits that would otherwise devastate native wildlife and vegetation. When dingoes are removed from an ecosystem, these invasive species surge unchecked, triggering cascading destruction that no human-managed intervention has been able to replicate. Science consistently shows that landscapes with thriving dingo populations are healthier, more biodiverse, and more resilient. We are, in effect, dismantling the very mechanism nature built to keep itself in balance.

Beyond ecology, there is a profound moral dimension to this issue. Dingoes are not vermin – they are sentient, socially complex animals whose behaviour, cognition, and emotional lives closely mirror those of the domestic dogs we welcome into our homes and families. The same loyalty, playfulness, and capacity for attachment that we cherish in a pet dog lives in the dingo. To cull one while protecting the other is an ethical contradiction we can no longer ignore. We do not have the right to exterminate a native species in the name of convenience or commercial interest. Enacting dominion over the natural world – deciding which animals live and which are destroyed based on short-term human gain – is a moral failure, and one with permanent consequences. It is time to replace culling with coexistence, and to recognise the dingo not as a threat to be eliminated, but as a vital, living thread in the fabric of this continent's ancient ecology.