

**Submission
No 36**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Shreshtha Jain

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Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Animal Welfare Committee

Inquiry into Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales

I am writing to make a submission to this inquiry, and I do so as someone who cares deeply about the ethical treatment of animals and Australia's responsibility to its native wildlife.

Dingoes are intelligent, sentient beings. They form social bonds, experience pain, and demonstrate complex behaviours that reflect their capacity to suffer. The fact that they remain the only native animal in NSW without protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act is not a minor oversight. It is a failure that this inquiry has a real opportunity to correct.

The current management regime, which includes 1080 poisoning, baiting, trapping, and shooting, is not only cruel, it is out of step with what we know about dingoes ecologically and ethically. As apex predators, dingoes play a critical role in maintaining the health of ecosystems within national parks. Removing them, or suppressing their populations through lethal means, creates cascading effects on vegetation, prey species, and biodiversity more broadly. The science on this is clear, and yet policy continues to treat dingoes as pests rather than as the ecologically vital and culturally significant animals they are.

I am also deeply concerned about the use of 1080 poison specifically. It causes prolonged suffering and indiscriminate harm. It has been flagged by experts as posing a real risk to dingo populations at a broader scale. A national park is not a space where we should be conducting lethal campaigns against native animals. It is a space where those animals should be allowed to exist.

The cultural significance of dingoes to First Nations communities adds another dimension to why this matters. Dingoes are not a problem to be managed. They are part of the living heritage of this country, and their continued persecution is inconsistent with any genuine commitment to ecological integrity or reconciliation.

I urge the committee to recommend that dingoes receive full legislative protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and that lethal control methods be replaced with humane, non-lethal alternatives developed in genuine partnership with First Nations communities and conservation experts.

The NSW Government has an opportunity to lead here. I hope this inquiry results in recommendations that reflect the values of a modern, compassionate society.