

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

To the Committee,

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into dingoes in New South Wales national parks.

Dingoes are Australia's largest terrestrial predator and an important part of our natural ecosystems. Yet in New South Wales they remain the only native animal excluded from protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. This inconsistency is difficult to justify and presents an important opportunity for reform.

As a veterinarian and scientist, I am particularly concerned about the ongoing use of lethal control methods such as 1080 poisoning, trapping and shooting in and around national parks. These methods cause significant animal suffering and raise serious animal welfare concerns. 1080 poisoning, in particular, can result in prolonged distress before death, while trapping and shooting carry risks of injury, stress and non-target impacts. The routine use of these methods on a native apex predator is increasingly inconsistent with contemporary community expectations regarding wildlife management and animal welfare.

There is also growing recognition of the important ecological role played by dingoes. As apex predators, dingoes can influence ecosystem health through their effects on prey species and mesopredators. Maintaining healthy dingo populations may contribute to broader biodiversity outcomes and ecosystem resilience. While conflicts between dingoes and livestock production can occur and require appropriate management, these situations should not justify broad-scale lethal control programs within national parks.

National parks exist primarily to conserve native wildlife and ecological processes. It is therefore difficult to reconcile the continued lethal control of a native species within areas established for conservation. Where management intervention is necessary, priority should be given to evidence-based, humane, non-lethal approaches wherever practicable.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend:

- Full legislative protection for dingoes under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 in New South Wales.
- A phased reduction and eventual cessation of routine lethal control programs for dingoes within national parks.

- Greater investment in humane, non-lethal management strategies to address conflicts with livestock and other stakeholders.
- Recognition of animal welfare as a central consideration in all dingo management decisions.

The treatment of dingoes is both a conservation issue and an animal welfare issue. New South Wales has an opportunity to adopt a modern, science-based approach that better reflects the ecological importance of dingoes and the expectation that native wildlife be managed humanely.

Sincerely,