

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

Name: Mrs Candace Brown

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To the Animal Welfare Committee,

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

I do not live in NSW — I'm writing from Victoria — but I care deeply about how Australia treats its native wildlife, and what happens to dingoes in NSW matters well beyond its borders.

I come to this as someone whose life revolves around dogs. I share my home with a dog I train at a high level in dog sport, and that work has given me an intimate, daily understanding of how canines think and feel. I've watched my dog problem-solve, anticipate, reason through a task, communicate clearly when something is unfair, and form deep social bonds. These are not simple animals running on instinct. They are intelligent, emotionally complex individuals, and everything I know about the canine mind tells me dingoes are no different — if anything, as a wild apex predator, the dingo is more capable, more aware, and more socially sophisticated than the domestic dogs most people picture.

That is exactly why the current treatment of dingoes in NSW distresses me. They are the only native animal in NSW not protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, and instead of protection they are met with shooting, trapping, and poisoning. The use of 1080 poison troubles me most of all. It causes a drawn-out, agonising death — convulsions, distress, and prolonged suffering. I cannot reconcile inflicting that on an animal I know to be as sentient and aware as the dog asleep at my feet. If we did to a domestic dog what is routinely done to dingoes, it would be prosecuted as serious animal cruelty. The only difference is the label we've attached to the animal.

Dingoes are not vermin. They are an apex predator with a genuine ecological role in keeping ecosystems in balance, they hold profound cultural significance for many First Nations communities, and they are thinking, feeling beings. The fact that they are persecuted in the very national parks meant to protect native wildlife is, to me, indefensible.

I urge the committee to recommend that dingoes be given full legislative protection in NSW, and that lethal control methods — including 1080 poisoning, baiting, trapping, and shooting — be replaced with humane, evidence-based, non-lethal alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important inquiry.

Sincerely,

Candace Brown
Trentham, Victoria