

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing because I believe dingoes deserve full protection under NSW law. The current exemption from the Biodiversity Conservation Act is unjustifiable, and this inquiry must address it.

Recent scientific research indicates that most wild-living canids in New South Wales are genetically dingoes, with relatively low levels of hybridisation in stable populations. Contemporary genetic studies, using far more advanced methods than those underpinning current policy, suggest that existing management frameworks may not accurately reflect the status of dingoes as a native species.

Dingoes play an important ecological role as Australia's apex terrestrial predator. They help regulate populations of herbivores and invasive species such as foxes, cats, goats and pigs, contributing to healthier ecosystems and biodiversity outcomes within National Parks. Research suggests that the removal of dingoes can disrupt ecosystem balance, leading to increased pressure on native vegetation and wildlife.

Current legislative and policy frameworks in New South Wales largely manage dingoes under the broader category of "wild dogs", treating them primarily as pest animals. Dingoes are exempt from protections available to other native mammals under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, and lethal control measures, including poison baiting, trapping and shooting, are widely used across National Parks. Evidence suggests these practices may disrupt stable pack structures, potentially increasing hybridisation and reducing ecological benefits provided by dingoes.

Dingoes also hold significant cultural value for many First Nations peoples. They are closely connected to cultural traditions, kinship systems, stories, and Caring for Country practices. Traditional Owners have called for greater involvement in dingo management through initiatives such as the National First Nations Dingo Declaration, which advocates for Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship approaches.

There is an opportunity to modernise dingo management in New South Wales by incorporating contemporary scientific evidence, Indigenous knowledge, and biodiversity objectives into policy and decision-making. This could include greater support for co-management arrangements, improved monitoring and research, and investment in effective non-lethal strategies to assist neighbouring landholders in managing livestock predation while maintaining the ecological role of dingoes.

Overall, a review of current policies provides an opportunity to better balance biodiversity conservation, cultural values, animal welfare considerations, and the interests of rural communities through a more evidence-based and collaborative approach to dingo management.

NSW's current approach to dingo management is out of step with modern, evidence-based wildlife management. I urge the committee to recommend that lethal practices be replaced with humane, non-lethal alternatives that allow dingoes to exist safely within our national parks.