

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 June 2026

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Dingoes in National Parks

I am writing to support stronger recognition and protection of dingoes in New South Wales National Parks.

Over recent years, our understanding of dingoes has changed significantly. Much of the current management framework is based on older genetic research that used a very limited number of genetic markers. More recent studies using far more sophisticated genetic analysis have found that most wild canids in Australia are, in fact, dingoes, and that high levels of hybridisation are not as widespread as previously believed. In New South Wales, a large majority of sampled animals were found to have very high dingo ancestry.

This newer science should be reflected in policy.

Dingoes are Australia's only native canid and play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. As apex predators, they help regulate populations of kangaroos, wallabies, goats, pigs, foxes and feral cats. Their presence influences the behaviour of other animals and helps reduce pressure on vegetation and habitat. When apex predators are removed, ecosystems can become unbalanced, often leading to unintended environmental consequences.

I am concerned that current policies continue to treat dingoes primarily as pests through the broad classification of "wild dogs." As a result, lethal control methods such as 1080 baiting, trapping and shooting remain widespread, including within National Parks. More than 1.5 million 1080 baits were reportedly deployed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service between 2020 and 2025.

Research suggests that removing dingoes can disrupt stable family groups and pack structures. This not only raises animal welfare concerns but may also undermine the ecological benefits that stable dingo populations provide. There is also evidence that disrupting packs may increase the likelihood of breeding with domestic dogs.

I believe it is time to move beyond outdated approaches and recognise dingoes as an important native species with a valuable ecological function. Management decisions should be guided by contemporary science rather than assumptions that no longer reflect current knowledge.

I also acknowledge the deep cultural significance of dingoes to many First Nations peoples. Dingoes are connected to Country, culture, stories and kinship in ways that deserve respect and consideration. I support greater involvement of Traditional

Owners and Indigenous ranger groups in dingo management and conservation, particularly through co-management arrangements and Indigenous-led programs.

At the same time, I recognise that some neighbouring landholders have genuine concerns about livestock predation. These concerns should not be dismissed. However, decades of lethal control have not resolved the issue. I would like to see greater investment in practical non-lethal measures, including livestock guardian dogs, improved fencing, education programs and research into other effective deterrents. Supporting landholders to coexist with dingoes is likely to produce better long-term outcomes than continued reliance on broad-scale lethal control.

In my view, the current treatment of dingoes in New South Wales does not adequately reflect their ecological importance, cultural significance or the latest scientific evidence. I encourage the Committee to review existing policies and adopt a more balanced approach that protects dingoes while supporting neighbouring communities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,