

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I write as a concerned Australian citizen about the humane treatment of Australian dingoes - intelligent, social animals that experience pain, fear and distress, and yet, like many of our other wildlife populations such as brumbies, foxes and feral cats, are routinely persecuted using cruel and inhumane methods such as poison baiting, trapping and shooting.

Wildlife management should reflect contemporary animal welfare standards which place greater value on the lives and well-being of sentient animals. I understand that certain populations of species like dingoes may need to be controlled, however, it is non-negotiable that this needs to be done in humane ways with minimal pain and suffering, for example, by using tranquillizers before swift euthanasia.

Having said that, extensive research needs to be done before carrying out any kind of culling of our dingo populations. As Australia's apex predator, dingoes play an important role in maintaining a healthy, balanced ecosystem, suppressing populations of introduced animals such as foxes and cats, and helping regulate grazing pressure from large herbivores like kangaroos and wallabies. Protecting dingoes can therefore benefit a wide range of other native species and ecological processes and, conversely, culling may lead to increases in numbers of other species only to become pests themselves. Humans have a long history of killing off populations of pest species only to find the unintended consequence of such engineered changes to animals populations is disastrous changes to the natural ecosystem, which we then attempt to reverse by re-introducing the species or introducing some other species, and the cycle continues, brutally killing one species, then another whilst engineering increases in populations of others.

As dingoes hold deep cultural significance for First Nations people who have traditional methods of wildlife control, Traditional Owners should be consulted regarding the

future of dingo management. People and dingoes have shared landscapes for thousands of years, and there are practical ways to reduce conflict without relying on widespread lethal control. Tools such as livestock guardian dogs, improved fencing and better husbandry practices have proven effective in many situations. Governments should invest more in helping landholders coexist with dingoes while protecting livelihoods and biodiversity.

Kind regards.