

**Submission
No 48**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Kemble Walker

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Hello,

I have read several research papers from ecologists that challenge the use of poison to kill native Australian dingoes in the wild. However, I am not an ecologist.

I am also not a sheep farmer, so while I understand the rationale behind killing dingoes, I don't know the details of the cost-benefit analysis. Certainly I have seen a small few farmers claim that it is quite possible to coexist with dingoes. Perhaps that is worth further research.

I am just a person who lives in the forest and hears the dingoes call. I have seen dingo pups walking on my driveway. I have listened to Kev Carmody's song, "Moonstruck", where he walks to the hills and caves where the dingo pups are born.

I have a photo portrait of a wild dingo on Kgari hanging in our living room. Also, our dog is suspected to have dingo in her, mixed with kelpie and blue heeler.

Dingoes have never hurt me. They are part of the forest where we live. There are no sheep farmers round here yet for some reason people still poison dingoes. The poison hurts more than just dingoes. Numerous domestic dogs have died from eating the poison, and it affects other wild animals too.

In this area, there is no reason to poison the dingoes. It costs money and it harms the environment, for literally no benefit. It is a strange cultural relic of a bygone era - the same anachronistic mindset that "clears" vegetation and burns it up in great piles each year. There are practical reasons to do each of these activities, but such interference in the natural order should be justified anew each time.

I fear the current poisoning of dingoes is futile and harmful. It makes no practical improvement to life in our region. I mean specifically our rainforest valley where the land is mostly hobby farms or cattle. The dingoes feed on pademelons, and they do a great job of preventing a marsupial plague. Because pademelons proliferate very easily. And it is good to keep the natural order of things.

I recommend that you cease poisoning the dingoes. It is an unreasonable burden on a native Australian animal, to merely be acting out a futile cultural relic with no practical benefit. Maybe in inland grazing country there is more of a justification, although even there you may investigate alternative methods to coexist. No other native Australian animal is treated in this way.

And to think you let varroa mite, cane toads and fire ants get away! While wasting all this time killing an actual native! Incredible stuff, that sadly for which future generations will curse you bitterly.

Better focus on the more important issues, and leave the native Australian dingo to live and prosper as the keeper of balance, how it has always done.

All the best in your deliberations.