

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Gabrielle Ryan

Date Received: 2 July 2026

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 this error. Current policy settings continue to manage dingoes within broad pest management frameworks despite contemporary ecological and genetic research recognising dingoes as an ecologically important native species. We need to evolve management practices with the science. In reality we need to question why we would interfere with 10's of 1000's of years of ecology in practice. Information obtained under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 revealed that more than 1.5 million 1080 poison baits targeting dingoes were deployed by New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) between 2020 and 2025. This is staggering and highlights the resource and priority disconnect within our own government departments! I have concern for the welfare of dingoes in NSW (and not just within national parks). The use of 1080 poison, baiting, trapping, and shooting against dingoes is cruel and out of step with the values of a compassionate community. I live near several national parks and the ongoing persecution of dingoes in these spaces is not acceptable to our community. Dingoes, as are all animals, sentient beings, and the cruelty of current management practices cannot be justified. I request the committee to recommend full legislative protection for dingoes and the immediate move away from all harmful and lethal control methods - throughout NSW. The current approach to dingo management in NSW 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 (and ultimately all of NSW). Poisoning, trapping, and shooting native animals is unacceptable. There are currently no extension services to support landholders to implement non-lethal predator deterrent strategies in NSW. Funding currently utilised for broad-scale 1080 baiting of dingoes and trapping and shooting in National Parks could be re-directed to support neighbouring landholders with coexistence extension services. Livestock Guardian Dogs have been proven effective at reducing or eliminating predation on livestock by dingoes. They also provide other benefits to landholders including deterring macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) from grazing paddocks, protection from foxes and protection from birds of prey. There is widespread anecdotal evidence from landholders that donkeys are also effective guardians against canid predators. There is a strong opportunity for the NSW Government to support more robust trials into the use of livestock guardian donkeys to support properties neighbouring National Parks. Investment is needed into research, development and scaling of coexistence strategies in NSW that ensures landholder interests are protected and dingoes can be retained in the environment to play their important ecological role. Thank you for considering my submission. gabrielle ryan