

**Submission
No 56**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The attempts of complete eradication of Dingo's from their native land since colonial settlers arrived in Australia is abhorrent. As the only APEX predator on the Australian mainland the scientific consequences have never been established but what is clear is the Dingo's very existence is under extreme threat.

In turn, species such as wild pig, kangaroos, goats have no natural predator and pose significant deterioration of the land. Again, the human answer seems to be to shoot these too.

This reactionary cycle of "killing one species to fix the overpopulation caused by killing another" highlights the profound failure of current wildlife management frameworks.

By continuing broad-scale 1080 poisoning programs in our National Parks, the government is actively disrupting natural ecological controls and perpetuating an expensive, destructive cycle of environmental mismanagement.

1. The Ecological Cost of Breaking the Food Chain.

When dingoes are eradicated from an ecosystem, the natural check on large herbivores and invasive omnivores disappears.

Land degradation: Unchecked populations of feral pigs, goats, and deer cause massive soil erosion, destroy fragile root systems, and foul natural waterways.

The failure of culling: Attempting to control these populations solely through costly aerial or ground shooting programs is unsustainable, inefficient, and fails to mimic the constant, regulatory pressure of a resident apex predator.

Mesopredator release: Scientific evidence consistently shows that when dingoes are removed, smaller introduced predators like red foxes and feral cats multiply rapidly, driving down populations of small, threatened native marsupials.

2. 1080 Poisoning is Counterproductive to Conservation National Parks are legally mandated to conserve and protect native biodiversity. Poisoning dingoes within these boundaries directly contradicts this mission.

Indiscriminate killing: 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) baits do not differentiate between target animals and non-target native species.

Endangered carnivorous marsupials like spotted-tailed quolls are frequently put at risk.

Inhumane practice: 1080 causes a slow, agonizing death marked by severe convulsions, panic, and vomiting. It is a cruel mechanism that has no place in modern, scientifically backed conservation management.

3. Transitioning to Science-Based Coexistence. Instead of relying on lethal eradication methods designed in the colonial era, government policy must adapt to modern ecological and genomic science.

Reclassifying the dingo: The government must cease grouping dingoes under the deceptive "wild dog" legal label. DNA testing proves that the vast majority of wild canids on public lands are pure or dominant dingoes performing vital apex functions.

Investing in non-lethal alternatives: On park boundaries where livestock protection is a concern, funding should be diverted away from toxic baiting and toward non-lethal mitigation strategies, such as predator-proof fencing and livestock guardian animals, such as donkey's.

Conclusion:

Australia cannot boast a commitment to preserving biodiversity while simultaneously poisoning its only remaining terrestrial apex predator. I urge the government to immediately halt 1080 baiting operations across all National Parks and formally protect the dingo as a culturally and ecologically vital native species.

1080 poison has been banned in over 70 countries due to its horrific properties and the suffering it causes multiple creatures outside of its target. It's time Australia caught up.