

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I welcome the New South Wales Legislative Council Animal Welfare Committee Inquiry into the treatment of dingoes in the state's national parks as a chance to finally end the cruel and unnecessary persecution of an animal whose profound ecological and cultural value across our country has been denied for too long.

Dingoes are the only native mammals specifically exempt from protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, allowing them to be trapped, poisoned and shot across New South Wales National Parks. This is shameful and wrong-headed and it must be stopped.

It is my hope to see these recommendations included in the final report at the conclusions of the inquiry:

- 1) An end to dingo killing within New South Wales National Parks - to protect the ecological function of dingoes and support biodiversity conservation.
- 2) Greater involvement of Cultural Custodians in decision-making and place-based management regarding dingoes in National Parks - to ensure the cultural significance of dingoes is reflected in legislation and management.
- 3) Financial support and extension services for landholders surrounding National Parks to implement non-lethal coexistence strategies - ensuring their interests are protected and dingoes can be maintained in the environment.

I am glad that this inquiry will examine the genetic status of dingoes in New South Wales and the distinction between dingoes and wild dogs. Current management frameworks do not reflect contemporary science. 'Wild dogs' is a misnomer wielded by vested interests opposed to justice for dingoes. Modern conservation science increasingly recognises that ecological function - including the role of dingoes as apex predators - is an important consideration alongside genetics when assessing wildlife populations.

It is past time that dingoes in New South Wales National Parks, and beyond, gained the protection they deserve.

Please do the right thing - use this opportunity to defend the dingo.