

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Lynn Baker

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Submission to the Inquiry: Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales

Lynn Baker (MResSci, BEnvSci)

I submit to the Inquiry regarding Dingoes in NSW National Parks that:

Dingoes should be protected within NSW National Parks and that 1080 baiting should cease within the National Park estate:

- Dingo populations are a recognised native species under legislation within NSW National Parks, that have been subjected to constant and high intensity 1080 baiting regimes for decades.
- Dingoes play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems in National Parks.
- The cultural value of dingoes must be considered in the ongoing management of NSW National Parks, particularly in view of the increasing involvement of Aboriginal communities and rangers in park management.
- 1080 baiting is an expensive and inhumane method of control.
- 1080 baiting should cease, particularly aerial baiting, within the boundaries of National Parks in NSW.
- Dingoes should be protected and managed as ecologically and culturally important wildlife within NSW National Parks.
- Stock owners should be responsible for the management and protection of their livestock, not the NSW government and the broader NSW community, through use of government revenue to support baiting runs.
- Stock owners should be encouraged to implement other means of stock protection, including the use of livestock guardian animals and/or predator proof fencing.
- Consideration could be given to providing financial support through a transitional period to assist stock owners to establish livestock guardian animals in their herds or initial fence installation.
- Consideration could be given to a limited compensation scheme for stock losses on properties adjacent to National Park boundaries; based on documented evidence that the stock were killed by a dingo, rather than dingoes feeding on the carcasses of stock that died from other causes.
- If individual dingo control is necessary to address individual problem dingoes affecting livestock, the control program should be undertaken **on the affected private agricultural land not in the National Park estate.**
- Any targeted control should be undertaken outside of the dingo breeding season to reduce welfare issues for young pups.
- The significant funds required to support 1080 baiting runs could be better used for the broader NSW community, for example in the areas of health, education and public housing.

My Background

I have worked as an ecologist in research, conservation and land management across Australia for fifty years. I worked as a scientist and conservation manager for the Australian Government in Kakadu National Park and at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. I was employed as Senior Team Leader and Senior Project Officer in the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Northeast Ecosystems and Threatened Species, and currently work as a private consultant specializing in threatened species research, survey and conservation.

I have worked in environments across Australia with functional dingo populations as well as areas where dingoes are subject to constant 1080 baiting pressure. As a result, I have directly observed the benefits of having healthy dingo populations in an ecosystem and for threatened species conservation and witnessed declines in ecosystem health and loss of threatened species where dingoes are subject to constant baiting pressure.

I have worked in many of the National Parks in NSW particularly on the north coast and northern tablelands, surveying for threatened species. As part of my current work with conservation scent detection dogs, I have conducted numerous surveys within the National Park system and been subject to the impact of regular 1080 aerial baiting within the National Parks, even in remote areas of the parks well away from boundaries with agricultural lands.

I co-authored a peer reviewed paper **“Ecologically Functional Landscapes and the role of Dingoes as trophic regulators in South-eastern Australia and other habitats”** Mike Letnic, Lynn Margaret Baker and Brad Nesbitt, *Ecological Management and Restoration* May 2013. I also prepared Regional Landscape Recovery Plans for northern NSW and Lord Howe Island, whilst working for the NSW government. I have a detailed understanding of ecological systems and the role dingoes play in maintaining ecosystem function.

Dingoes are our native apex predator and have an important role to play as trophic regulators in keeping our National Parks as healthy ecosystems. I am seriously concerned at the long-term impact of sustained baiting on dingo populations in National Parks with respect to dingo welfare and ecosystem function decline.

I worked extensively with Indigenous communities across Australia and understand the importance of dingoes in their cultural law and the role dingoes play in their cultural environments. The cultural value of dingoes must be considered in the ongoing management of NSW National Parks, particularly in view of the increasing involvement of Aboriginal communities and rangers in park management.

I have contributed to the dingo genetic research projects in northern NSW and know that the dingoes in our national park system are dingoes, genetically distinct from domestic dogs and are not ‘wild dogs’.

The use of 1080 bait to kill dingoes is a slow, painful and inhumane device. We must be able to manage dingoes within our public estate in a more humane manner.

As outlined in the recent letter to the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC Minister for the Environment, NSW 25 May 2026 by Dr Kylie Cairns et al.:

- Scientific evidence proves that Dingoes are genetically distinct from domestic dogs.
- Dingoes have been part of Australian ecosystems for thousands of years.
- There are at least two regional dingo lineages; with evidence of up to 8 distinct sub-populations.
- First generation dingo-dog hybrids make up less than 0.5% of the wild canine population.
- There are no established free-living feral dog populations in Australia.
- Dog ancestry in wild dingo populations is limited and is largely historical, with the bulk occurring in the 1950s to the 1980s.
- The term “wild dog” is not appropriate for dingo populations in Australia, it is misleading from a genetics perspective and deeply offensive to many First Nations.
- I have attached a copy of the letter as part of my submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Baker
MResSci, BEnvSci

30 June 2026

