

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I feel we are going backwards as a nation when we consider our current "conservation" practices.

Dingoes are Australia's only native canid. They are an important apex predator and importantly, like bats, and bees, etc, they are a keystone species.

Dingoes help reduce grazing pressure on landscapes as their presence helps keep populations of kangaroos and wallabies to manageable sizes.

Dingoes prey on feral goats which also helps preserve vegetation and reduce erosion. Dingoes can effectively reduce, and sometimes eliminate local fox, feral cat and wild pig populations through territorial competition and predation, giving smaller native wildlife a better chance to thrive in these areas.

I believe that research suggests that maintaining stable Dingo populations may be far more effective than the sole use of poison baiting which is the current protocol.

Having active Dingo populations in an area influences the behaviour and movement of herbivores and other animals which in turn reduces pressure on vegetation, assisting in vegetation growth/recovery, stopping erosion.

They are part of the indigenous cultural landscape and should be treated with the respect they deserve as apex predators and an integral keystone species.

Without Dingo populations, there is destabilisation of entire ecosystems, and some of the consequences include vegetation decline, habitat degradation/loss due to increased numbers of foxes, feral cats, wild pigs, as well as kangaroos, wallabies, and higher predation on smaller animals and threatened species by foxes, feral cats, including an increased risk to threatened species through the destruction/loss of vital vegetation and habitats. We just need to look at what happened in areas where Dingoes were excluded. The rabbit proof fence shows the positive impact that Dingoes have on their environment...the side where Dingoes were excluded suffered severe vegetation loss and erosion has all but decimated the top soil and that side is barren...a sandy desert. There may be a way to reintegrate orphaned dingoes (those which live in a family pack), to live in specific areas where foxes, feral cats and wild pigs pose a problem. Speak to the Dingo experts who actually know these animals. Stop listening to bureaucrats who haven't got a bloody clue. Stop wasting money on getting experts who aren't experts...just speak to the actual organisations who are rescuing and caring for and protecting Dingoes and doing so for many years. We are a terrible nation in that we cull/murder our native wildlife with impunity and often in callous inhumane ways. How about making sure our apex predator can do what they have been doing for thousands of years before white people interfered and screwed it all up. You want our national forests to be free of foxes, feral cats and wild pigs, then run a controlled trial...Fence off a large area of national forest (an area large enough to mimic the Dingoes natural hunting area) and get the actual Dingo experts to assist you to do it right the first time, to release some of these orphaned Dingoes and monitor their effectiveness. There may also be Dingoes in other areas which may need relocation from agricultural zones. But regardless, the Dingo experts can tell you what to do and not to do. Testing Dingoes for genetic purity and ensuring that only Dingoes with a set percentage of Dingo blood, and again, the experts have done the research or know who has. Protect our Dingoes. We already murdered Thylacines. Let's not repeat the same mistakes.

Let's learn from them and work proactive with people who actually know and understand these amazing animals. Dingoes rule...or they should be!!