

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Dingos in National Parks

I would like to offer my support to respect dingo populations in National parks. They are keystone species in our ecosystem. While cats (apex predators) and foxes decimate native fauna, dingos' presence fosters the health of native ecosystems including marsupial species populations. Dingos (our native apex predator) mostly prey on larger creatures like kangaroos and wallabies, whilst foxes and cats eat the majority of our marsupials who are small and nocturnal. Where dingos are present, there are reduced cat and fox populations; additionally they impact deer and wild pig activity and populations.

If you are indeed concerned about stock safety, guard animals have well established and proven efficacy. As a goat and poultry owner, I maintain it doesn't matter if you have 5 chooks or 5000, active measures must still be taken (for a number of predators, inc foxes, bandicoots, goannas, eagles etc). So it is small step for stock owners to further guard against dingos.

For effective species management we should understand it's physiology and behaviour. As dingos are classified as 'wild dogs' and farmers are allowed to shoot them, this random killing leads to a disruption in pack structure. In a normal pack, they are family unit and the dominant male will keep the young males in check. When the pack structure is disrupted, the young males run amok and start stealing cars and graffitiing on the walls, i.e. killing farm stock, not for food but for fun. Some farmers happily co exist with dingos, one NT farmer stating that the very occasional loss of a calf was well worth it in balance of the huge range of ecosystem services the dingos did for his cattle operation.

Dingos have been living within our fragile ecosystems for thousands of years, and have found a evolutionary niche which keeps ecological processes in balance. AS humans, I think we should all take some responsibility for our place on this earth, and a part of that is respect- respect the land and respect those in it. Dingos have proven benefit to farm operations, we just have to fine tune how we approach this. And education is paramount. I absolutely support the protection of dingos in all rural areas and national parks.

Sincerely,