

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Ruth Brunnekreef

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To whom it may concern; I would like you to consider the following. Please note that I write this as someone who has lost a pet dog to dingoes, which broke my heart, however, this does not change that they are an essential and original part of our ecosystem.

1. Dingoes are sentient animals. Dingoes are intelligent, social animals that experience pain, fear and distress. Current controls are inhumane and use poisons that are illegal in most of the world. Australians, as people, enjoy some of the world's best living. Wildlife management should reflect contemporary animal welfare standards and place greater value on the lives and well-being of native animals.
2. Dingoes play a key role in healthy ecosystems. As Australia's apex predator, dingoes help maintain balance in natural ecosystems. Research suggests they can suppress introduced animals such as foxes and cats, and help regulate herbivore numbers, thereby supporting healthier landscapes and plant life. Protecting dingoes has a direct impact on our unique ecology.
3. Dingoes are culturally significant, especially for many First Nations peoples. In the interest of ongoing reconciliation, to which we must be committed, decisions about all native animal management should respect and incorporate First Nations knowledge, values and leadership.
4. People and dingoes have shared landscapes for thousands of years, and there are practical ways to reduce conflict without relying on widespread lethal control. Government assistance to landholders and farmers could help mitigate impacts on farmers, livestock and dingoes. The goal must be coexistence, not eradication.

With kind regards, Ruth