

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 7 July 2026

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into dingoes in New South Wales national parks.

In New South Wales, native animals are protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, with the exception of dingoes. This exclusion does not make sense. Dingoes are native animals and should receive the same legal protection as other native wildlife. For many years, dingoes have been subjected to cruel and inhumane lethal control methods, including trapping, baiting, poisoning, and shooting. Dingoes are sentient animals capable of feeling pain and suffering. These practices should end, and more humane approaches to managing their populations should be adopted.

I am a resident of New South Wales and live close to several national parks. I care deeply about the protection of our native wildlife. Dingoes are an important part of Australia's ecosystems, and national parks are their natural home. As apex predators, they help regulate populations of kangaroos, wallabies, and introduced species such as foxes, contributing to healthier and more balanced ecosystems. I strongly urge the committee to take action to ensure that dingoes are protected.

Dingoes also hold deep cultural significance for First Nations peoples. They feature prominently in Dreaming stories, art, dance, and cultural traditions. For thousands of years, dingoes have coexisted with First Nations communities as companions, protectors, hunting partners, and water diviners. Dingoes are native animals, not wild dogs, and they deserve to be recognised and treated accordingly.

The current management practices for dingoes are unacceptable and cause unnecessary suffering. I urge the committee to investigate and implement more humane, evidence-based approaches to managing dingoes. They deserve to be treated with respect and protected as an important part of Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Craig