

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Dingoes need to be recognised for their ecological, cultural and intrinsic value. They are native Australian animals, critical to the functioning of ecosystems across New South Wales.

1. Dingoes are sentient animals

Dingoes are intelligent, social animals that experience pain, fear and distress. Yet they are routinely persecuted using lethal methods such as poison baiting, trapping and shooting. Wildlife management should reflect contemporary animal welfare standards and place greater value on the lives and well-being of native animals.

2. Dingoes play an important 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 grazing pressure from large herbivores such as kangaroos and wallabies. Protecting dingoes can therefore benefit a wide range of other native species and ecological processes.

3. Dingoes are culturally significant

For many First Nations peoples, dingoes hold deep cultural significance and are connected to Country, kinship systems, stories and cultural responsibilities. Decisions about dingo management should respect and incorporate First Nations knowledge, values and leadership. Traditional Owners should have a meaningful role in shaping the future of dingo management.

4. We need more support for coexistence

People and dingoes have shared landscapes for thousands of years, and there are practical ways to reduce conflict without relying on widespread lethal control. Tools such as livestock guardian dogs, improved fencing and better husbandry practices have proven effective in many situations. Governments should invest more in helping

landholders coexist with dingoes while protecting livelihoods and biodiversity.