

**Submission
No 123**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Donna Della-Ca

Date Received: 3 July 2026

Submission to the New South Wales Parliament

Subject: Recognition and Protection of Australia's Dingoes as Native Fauna

To the Members of the New South Wales Parliament,

I write to express my strong objection to the continued persecution of Australia's dingoes and to advocate for their recognition, protection, and management as an integral part of Australia's native flora and fauna.

The Australian dingo is not merely another wild canid. It is one of this country's most iconic native mammals and has occupied the Australian landscape for thousands of years. Regardless of ongoing scientific debate regarding its precise arrival date, the dingo has become an essential component of Australia's ecosystems and has evolved alongside countless native species.

As Australia's apex terrestrial predator, dingoes perform a critical ecological role. They help regulate populations of introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats, which are responsible for the decline and extinction of many native mammals, reptiles, and birds. Healthy dingo populations contribute to balanced ecosystems, healthier vegetation, and improved biodiversity.

Despite this ecological importance, dingoes continue to be subjected to widespread lethal control measures, including aerial baiting, trapping, shooting, and exclusion programs. These practices often fail to distinguish between pure dingoes and dingo hybrids and can cause unnecessary suffering while disrupting established family groups. Scientific research has demonstrated that indiscriminate killing can destabilise dingo packs, leading to increased breeding, altered behaviour, and potentially greater impacts on livestock.

Management strategies should therefore be based on contemporary ecological science rather than outdated perceptions that classify dingoes primarily as pests.

Dingoes also hold profound cultural significance for many Aboriginal peoples across Australia. They feature prominently in Dreaming stories, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural practices that have existed for thousands of years. Their continued protection is consistent with recognising and respecting Indigenous cultural heritage.

I respectfully urge the New South Wales Parliament to:

- Formally recognise dingoes as an important native mammal deserving of appropriate conservation status.
- Review existing legislation and management policies that permit broad-scale lethal control.
- Prioritise evidence-based, humane, and targeted management strategies where genuine livestock conflicts occur.
- Increase investment in non-lethal livestock protection methods, including guardian animals, improved fencing, and husbandry practices.

- Support ongoing independent scientific research into the ecological role of dingoes.
- Recognise the environmental, cultural, and biodiversity benefits of maintaining healthy dingo populations across suitable landscapes.

Australia has already lost many unique native mammals through habitat destruction, introduced predators, and inappropriate wildlife management. We should not continue policies that further threaten one of our most significant native predators.

The dingo deserves to be recognised not as a pest to be eradicated, but as a keystone species that contributes to the health and resilience of Australian ecosystems.

Future generations should inherit an Australia where dingoes continue to fulfil their natural role in the landscape, protected through balanced, science-based policy rather than widespread persecution.

I respectfully ask the Parliament to reconsider the current treatment of dingoes and to provide them with the recognition and protection that such an iconic Australian species deserves.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Donna Della-Ca