

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

Name: Name suppressed

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INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NSW

The following is my submission to this Inquiry.

I am a grazer from East of Canberra in NSW. I have been farming sheep and cattle on my properties since 1992 and have experienced attacks by dogs on my stock on multiple occasions.

I am very upset at having to write to a government inquiry again about the problems that wild dogs represent and explain the damage that they cause. This is reopening for me the trauma of my sheep being killed, suffering horrendous damage and having to find them where they have hidden after being bitten in deep gullies and blackberry bushes to put them down.

There is nothing more upsetting than to come across ewes and lambs that have been attacked. It has also proven to be impossible as a landholder to predict or prevent the attacks which occur without a clear pattern.

As it is being undertaken by the animal safety and welfare committee it is imperative that this inquiry take account of the damage caused to other animals in reaching any conclusions.

Genetic status of Dingoes.

There is no dispute that dingoes were introduced to Australia from Asia. To claim that they represent a 'pure' line is doubtful given the earliest records refer to there being dogs of different colour and size. The most recent research also shows beyond doubt that there has been extensive and long-term hybridisation between wild dogs and domestic dogs brought to Australia since 1888.

Distinguishing between dogs and dingoes is not helpful. However they are described the damage that is caused by dogs or dingoes is similar in that they bite and kill well beyond their need to eat. Just as a domestic dog should be controlled from attacking wildlife or domestic animals so should dingoes and other wild dogs.

Biosecurity issues and other impacts.

Ensuring food security is essential. The protection of Australia and NSW from biosecurity threats is critical if we are to continue to be able to meet our food requirements within Australia and export our produce. Any threat must be regarded seriously.

Not only do wild dogs cause traumatic injury to livestock they also are known to transmit other serious diseases such as hydatid and neospora. The financial impact from wild dogs has been estimated at in excess of \$300m per year.

The loss of each lamb killed equates to the loss of about 60 meals. There is also the wool and skin that are lost as well as the potential future generations.

The personal emotional and psychological effects are longlasting.

There is no compensation for the loss that is experienced. Many farmers have found that they cannot continue to run sheep at all in this environment but unfortunately are also now experiencing attacks on their cattle and other larger livestock.

If there were to be changes to protect dingoes or to reduce the level of control undertaken within National Parks this would result in even greater threat to agricultural production. Here in south east NSW we are surrounded by National Parks on all sides and those parks provide a habitat and refuge which an increased dog population would use to create havoc. An increase of dog populations within national parks would also significantly impact native wildlife and put many species at increased risk of extinction.

The risk to bushwalkers or other park users and staff will also increase. The sad death on K'gari and other attacks show that this is a real possibility.

Why the inquiry appears to be trying to create division between indigenous people and other Australians is not clear.

Yours Sincerely