

**Submission
No 146**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Patrick Laher

Date Received: 11 July 2026

Terms of Reference

- (a) Modern genomic science has proven that Dingoes have been shaping the Australian landscape for about 11,000 years. They are not 'wild dogs' – they are a native apex predator that is vital for our ecosystems health.

Pioneering work by Dr. Kylie Cairns and colleagues (UNSW) using genome-wide SNPs found that in NSW, the majority of animals were pure Dingoes. Of a minority that had historical backcrosses, only two individuals in the NSW sample were under 70% Dingo ancestry.

Twenty six scientists at the Royal Zoological Society of NSW symposium on 'Dingo Dilemma: Cull, contain or conserve' released this statement. 'The continued use of the terminology 'wild dog' is not justified because wild canids in Australia are predominately Dingoes and Dingo hybrids, and not, in fact feral domestic dogs'

The mythical 'wild dog pack' does not exist. There is no feral domestic dog population in Australia. Domestic dogs do not have the skills to survive in the Australian landscape.

There are five research papers from three independent groups of scientists from NSW, Victoria and South Australia who have over the last three years, confirmed that modern Dingoes are pure or almost entirely pure Dingoes.

Despite all this information, governments and Dingo killing advocates continue to use the term 'wild dog' in reference to Dingoes. This term is used to hide from the public view the government funded Dingo killing program.

- (b) The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, states that 'a native species is defined as one that was present in Australia before the year 1400'

Our native Dingo has been present in Australia between 11,000 years, and yet the NSW Government demands that our native Dingo is killed in our National Parks by contractors and employees whose role it is to protect native animals.

And as a management tool, the NSW Government funds the use of 1080, an inhumane manufactured poison to kill our native Dingo and any other native animal that comes into contact with this poison. This poison is spread across National Parks like confetti with 1.5 million baits spread between 2020 and 2025.

The NSW Government is complicit in the cruelty inflicted on our native Dingo under the deceit of 'management'.

- (c) Dingos are guardians of our environment, they are deeply connected to the health and balance of the landscape. All our native animals have co-existed with Dingoes for thousands of years.

Whether a Dingo is 100% pure or has ancient domestic dog ancestry, it still acts like a Dingo. It still fills the exact same ecological niche as it always has and now it also suppresses feral predators such as foxes and cats to protect critical native wildlife.

(d) First Nations Dingo Declaration states 'if it looks and behaves like a Dingo, then it is Australia's Dingo'.

Just this year, scientists from University of Sydney and led by archaeologist Dr. Vere Way, discovered buried Dingo bones in Kinchega National Park. This discovery conformed that Dingoes were treated as deeply loved family members and ancestors rather than just wild animals.

This article was published by Australian Archaeology.

(e) Australia needs to end Dingo killing in all National Parks and Public Land to protect the ecological function of Dingoes and support biodiversity conservation.

Yet, the NSW Government continues to persecute the Dingo with un-paralleled treachery. This contradiction is a blatant affront to Conservation efforts.

The billion dollar industry of 1080, a synthetic toxic bait, perpetuates a cycle of corruption and deceit, and which also causes immense and prolonged suffering, has no place in a society that is concerned about animal welfare.

There is a need to replace the Dingo haters that have been advising Government on Dingo management. Modern and independent scientists should be used to advise Government on Dingo and animal welfare issues.

(f) There are farming organisations and farmers who use and promote non-lethal deterrent methods against Dingo predation on livestock. The use of donkeys and Livestock Guardian Dogs are a proven and effective way to reduce/eliminate predations.

The NSW Government should re-direct the millions of dollars spent on poison 1080 baits and instead divert that money towards financial and extension services support for landholder adjacent to National Parks and Public Land.

There is also an urgent need for Government to develop co-existence strategies so that landholder's interests are protected and Dingoes can be retained in their environment to play their ecological role.

(g) The alarm bells are ringing for our iconic native Dingo.