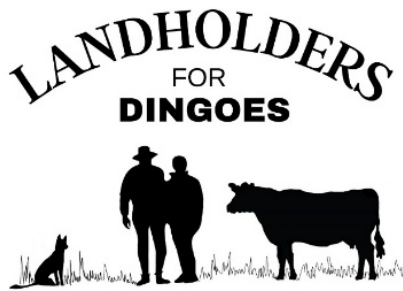


INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Landholders for Dingoes

Date Received: 12 July 2026



Dear MPs and Animal Welfare committee secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry into the status of Dingoes in NSW parks.

Landholders for Dingoes is a group of graziers who have found significant benefits in maintaining Dingoes on their properties, and who advocate for Dingo management to take into account the benefits as well as the costs of having Dingoes in Australian landscapes.

While we manage properties in diverse landscapes across Australia, graziers in our group have had near identical outcomes in stopping persecution of Dingoes. We all found that Dingoes provided substantial commercial as well as economic benefits.

These findings were outlined in a peer reviewed paper attached below. And are outlined by grazier David Pollock [here](#) in a short video.

In summary:

Dingoes stop over-grazing by unmanaged populations of kangaroos and by completely eradicating feral goats. This is of significant direct commercial benefit for landholders, as well as environmentally beneficial. Put simply, much less unmanaged grazing and more feed for stock. In addition, Dingoes provide environmental and some commercial benefits by reducing populations of feral pigs, feral cats, foxes and in some circumstances possibly feral rabbits.

It is well-established that excessive grazing pressure from unmanaged native and feral herbivores is a major driver of degradation of native vegetation across much of Australia (references in our attached paper). As well as farms and stations, many national parks and other public lands in New South Wales suffer from such over-grazing by over-abundant kangaroos and/or feral goats (references are in our paper). This reduces ground cover, suppresses recruitment of some plants, increases erosion risk and limits the recovery of degraded landscapes.

Such over-grazing and degradation by kangaroos and feral goats only occurs where Dingoes have been eradicated or are kept at low numbers by persistent persecution.

We would especially emphasise the fact that feral goats are *eradicated* by Dingoes throughout Australia, an exceptional positive outcome for nature conservation as well as commercial productivity. This is especially so in the Western Division of New South Wales

where large areas of public and private lands are being highly degraded by feral goats. As far as we have ascertained there are *no* significant feral goat populations where there are persistent populations of Dingoes anywhere in Australia. The only possible exception are very small areas with cliffs that provide refuge for the goats from predation.

Populations of all large kangaroo species become much lower in landscapes when Dingoes are no longer persecuted. On some of our properties, kangaroos had been reduced by an estimated around 90% once killing of Dingoes ceased and Dingoes re-established.

On all the properties of our cattle producers, losses of calves were minimal or zero once stable Dingo packs established. Dingoes are 15-20 kg medium sized canids. They are not 50kg plus wolves, or lions or tigers, able to readily attack cattle. There is some evidence that lethal control which partly kills off Dingo populations (but doesn't eradicate them) *increases* rather than decreases attacks on cattle (see references in our paper). This outwardly strange outcome may arise due to killing destroying normal Dingo family structures, and an increase in inexperienced young Dingoes attacking cattle.

Unlike cattle, sheep and goats cannot co-exist unprotected in a paddock with Dingoes. However, we are struck that industry bodies and government departments only provide significant support for lethal methods of protection. Expensive exclusionary fencing has been strongly promoted in some places, but this relies on complete eradication of Dingoes inside the fenced area, and some level of ongoing killing outside the fences.

Non-lethal techniques to protect stock that have worked on other continents have received very little attention. Unlike government support, funds, pressure and sometimes directions for landholders on public and private lands to keep killing Dingoes, there has been no attempt to systematically support landholders wanting to use non-lethal techniques, such as using proven breeds of guard dogs which bond with, and live with stock in paddocks. Use of guard dogs, and possibly other non-lethal techniques, has the potential to effectively protect smaller stock, while also maintaining the benefits of maintaining Dingoes in the landscape and reducing the uncontrolled grazing of feral and native herbivores.

Because of the facts detailed above - we are puzzled why lethal control of Dingoes appears to be still done routinely across many or most New South Wales conservation reserves. When there are obvious environmental benefits in maintaining them as top-order predators.

Overall, we propose that government policy should recognise the business and ecological services provided by Dingoes. Rather than focusing solely on 19th century approaches to try to eradicate predators, land management policies and funding should account for the demonstrated benefits of Dingoes, especially in eradicating feral goats, and controlling over-abundant kangaroo populations. Doing so would improve the condition and sustainability of New South Wales native vegetation on both private and public lands.

We urge you to recommend that lethal control of Dingoes be immediately re-considered on both public and private lands in NSW, most immediately in landscapes with cattle production, rather than sheep or goats. This should be backed up with support where needed for landholders, especially sheep and goat producers, for non-lethal methods to protect their stock.