

**Submission
No 152**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The Animal Welfare Committee – NSW

SUBMISSION:

INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF DINGOE'S IN THE STATE'S NATIONAL PARKS

SIR/MADAM –

I am a permanent resident of Suffolk Park NSW having lived here since 2020. I love the natural environment and beauty of the bush and coastline as well as the many native animals that abound here.

I was appalled therefore, to learn that the native Australian Dingo remains the only native mammal in NSW to be exempt from protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act of 2016, including within our own State National Parks!

The current means of control of Dingoes is also an indictment on the NSW Parliament, allowing and legislating for the use of 1080 poison even in National Parks. This is a well-known highly toxic substance which is banned in most other countries because of the WIDEPREAD damage it causes to native and domestic animals and ecologies. Trapping, shooting and netting, again even in our National Parks, are also used to eradicate the native Dingo, via a highly contentious classification as a 'Priority Pest' under the Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans. This also holds that landowners additionally are required to control Dingoes under the General Biosecurity Duty of the Biosecurity Act 2015 or face heavy fines. Furthermore, classification of Dingoes as 'wild dogs' flies squarely in the face of groundbreaking research that shows Dingoes are a genetically distinct species, (195,000 genetic markers) establishing unique and specific wild populations in clear difference to feral or wild dogs.

As an apex predator, Dingoes help regulate the numbers of native herbivores (kangaroos and wallabies) to prevent overgrazing. They are also vital in suppressing and eliminating the many introduced species that have decimated our environments in the past few decades (wild dogs, foxes, goats, and cats and pigs), and whose numbers have steadily increased (and not incidentally!), since the Dingoes' decline and eradication in specific areas. Far from being a Priority Pest, the Dingo, when reinstated as the apex predator that it is, sees a most remarkable recovery of both native fauna and flora. (Minyumai Rangers, Indigenous Protection Areas)

No wonder many First Nations' People regard the Dingo as culturally most significant, with the Dingo the basis to regular and important formation of totems, dreaming, law/lore and customs.

Therefore, I wish to call for **the immediate cessation of indiscriminate killing of Dingoes**, within our National Parks in particular, and further afield. Much needed research into the sustainable management of Dingo populations and their significant impact on the health and well-being of our natural environments is urgently required **NOW!**

Melanie Trask