

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

To the Parliament of New South Wales,

I am writing this letter, as a NSW resident, to express my concern that dingoes are the only Australian native animals that are not protected and are instead classified as “wild dogs” and pests in NSW National Parks.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service uses aerial baiting to cull foxes and dingoes. The bait contains 1080 poison (sodium fluoroacetate).

Although fluoroacetate occurs naturally in some plants, the 1080 poison used in aerial baiting is an industrially manufactured, highly concentrated chemical that is deliberately distributed into the environment. Its artificial deployment at lethal concentrations makes it dangerous, indiscriminate, and ecologically disruptive.

1080 poison, which is listed as a Schedule 7 poison, is an extremely potent chemical. One teaspoon could kill 100 people.

1080 poison is both inhumane and indiscriminate. It is inhumane because the affected animal can suffer in agony for a prolonged period before death. Dog owners find it traumatising to witness their beloved dogs dying in such a terrible state.

It is indiscriminate because Australian native animals can be indirectly affected by consuming the carcasses of animals that have ingested 1080 poison.

Some studies have found that quolls consumed multiple baits, while foxes cached them. Additionally, these studies revealed that local quoll extinctions resulted from direct or indirect consumption of 1080 poison.

1080 poison is also used in Tasmania to cull wallabies and pademelons, and in New Zealand it is used to cull possums. At least thirteen native species are at risk every time 1080 is laid. This demonstrates that Australian native animals are not immune to the effects of 1080 poison. Even if they do not die, 1080 can have sublethal effects that cause lifelong harm.

Dingoes are one of the few Australian native animals that are excluded from full legal protection and are instead classified as “wild dogs” and pests in NSW National Parks.

Dingoes, as apex predators, are particularly susceptible to 1080 poison. We need dingoes to support biodiversity and ecosystem function, as they play an important role in controlling introduced animals such as foxes and feral cats.

1080 poison destroys dingo pack structures, which may lead to increased fox and feral cat activity. Some studies have found that fox and feral cat activity was higher in baited areas than in non-baited areas. These studies also suggest that dingoes may provide indirect ecological benefits to small native mammals, such as hopping mice, by suppressing populations of foxes and feral cats.

As a concerned resident, I request that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service ban aerial baiting, the use of 1080 poison, and all lethal methods used to kill dingoes. Full protection for dingoes would allow wildlife to inhabit and prosper in harmony, without facing cruel deaths or adverse side effects from 1080 poison, and would ultimately reduce the risk of extinction.

All lethal methods used to kill dingoes should be banned so that they can be fully protected as an apex predator and fulfil their essential role within the ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope this submission contributes to a more ethical and ecologically responsible approach to wildlife management in NSW.

Yours sincerely,