

**Submission
No 170**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Inquiry Into Dingoes In National Parks In New South Wales.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into dingoes in New South Wales national parks.

As a woman living with a significant disability, I face challenges every day that many people never have to think about. Yet despite my own circumstances, I often find myself worrying more about the welfare of animals than I do about my own difficulties. Animals cannot speak for themselves, and when they are suffering, they rely entirely on compassionate people to stand up for them. Their welfare means the world to me.

I believe dingoes deserve full protection under NSW law. It is deeply concerning that dingoes remain the only native animal excluded from protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. As Australians, we are proud of our unique wildlife, and it nonsensical that such an important Australian native species continues to be treated differently from all others.

I am equally concerned by the inhumane methods used to kill dingoes, including 1080 poisoning, baiting, trapping, and shooting. These practices cause immense suffering and are inconsistent with the values of a modern and compassionate society. No animal should endure a prolonged and painful death simply because it exists in its natural habitat.

Dingoes are sentient beings capable of feeling fear, pain, and distress. They are also an important part of Australia's natural environment. Managing wildlife must never mean resorting to cruel and outdated methods when humane alternatives are available. Around the world, wildlife management is increasingly focused on non-lethal approaches that balance the needs of animals, ecosystems, and communities. NSW and indeed all of Australia, should be moving in the same direction.

Most Australians want to see animals treated with kindness and respect. We teach our children to care for animals, not to poison, trap, or shoot them. Our laws and policies should reflect those values.

This inquiry presents an important opportunity to correct a longstanding injustice. I urge the committee to recommend that dingoes receive full legislative protection in New South Wales and that lethal control methods be replaced (only where absolutely necessary, which I would be hard-pressed to think of where) with humane, evidence-based, non-lethal alternatives.

The way we treat animals says a great deal about who we are as a society. I hope this committee will choose compassion and ensure a better future for dingoes in New South Wales.

I would be very happy to discuss this with you.