

**Submission
No 176**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I want to see an end to the killing of dingoes in National Parks across New South Wales. I am an Australian citizen. I feel a strong sense of custodianship and need to protect our wildlife, irrespective of the state I was born & raised in.

Dingoes are absolutely crucial to ecological function and biodiversity of our natural environment.

They possess an important ecological role, as all predators do. They are our apex, land based predators who help with the management of pest species such as rabbits, foxes and wild cats. They also greatly contribute to the management of native species such as kangaroos and wallabies, who can contribute to overgrazing, soil erosion and loss of plant diversity.

Dingoes maintain the natural order. Without them whole ecosystems would collapse, birds without nests cannot reproduce, small mammals without shelter will not survive and reptiles with nothing to forage will die.

Dingoes adhere to a complex social hierarchy, much like our own. They are not wild-domesticated dogs. The elders guide and teach their young. Removing elder members leads to instability in packs where juveniles are forced to rely on their own inexperience and lack of knowledge. With no one to correct inappropriate behaviour we witness aggression, destruction and attacks on humans.

The traditional custodians of the land in which these dingoes reside should have greater involvement in the management and decision-making. As those who have the greatest connection with the land and its natural inhabitants, I believe they should have more power in helping to mitigate issues involving native wildlife.

There are non-lethal co-existence strategies that can be utilised and should be funded, in order to alleviate the pressures that presence of dingoes places on land-holders surrounding national parks.

With education and advocacy for these animals I believe we could see a lot of positive change.

We need to learn to respect and understand these integral creatures