

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Parliament of NSW

**Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales**

I write in my capacity of a community member concerned about the management of dingoes in New South Wales National Parks and the broader treatment of dingoes under current wild dog control frameworks. I support increased protection for dingoes and urge the Committee to recommend reforms that recognise their ecological, cultural and conservation significance.

Dingoes are a native apex predator with an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Scientific research has shown that apex predators can help regulate prey populations and influence the behaviour and abundance of other species. In Australian landscapes, dingoes may contribute to ecological balance by helping to suppress overabundant herbivores and mesopredators, which can in turn benefit biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Despite their ecological importance, dingoes in New South Wales are currently managed under a broad “wild dog” framework that does not adequately distinguish between dingoes, domestic dogs and hybrids. This lack of distinction means that lethal control of dingoes is actually legally required under the Biosecurity Act, even within National Parks where other native animals are protected. It is clear that current policies do not reflect contemporary ecological science or the status of dingoes as a native species.

I also support stronger recognition of the cultural significance of dingoes to Aboriginal peoples. Dingoes hold important cultural, spiritual and historical connections for many Traditional Owners and communities across Australia. They are considered family by many groups, and may be totemic to some people. Management decisions affecting dingoes should therefore incorporate First Nations knowledge and leadership and ensure meaningful consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities.

Non-targeted controls such as aerial and ground baiting may have unintended ecological consequences. Such broad-scale control can disrupt dingo social structures, potentially increasing conflict with livestock rather than reducing it. Greater emphasis should be placed on evidence-based, non-lethal coexistence strategies such as incentives to run cattle rather than sheep, guardian animals, exclusion fencing and financial support for lost stock.

I respectfully recommend that the Committee:

1. Recognise dingoes as a native species of ecological and cultural significance.
2. Review and amend legislative and policy frameworks that fail to distinguish dingoes from domestic and feral dogs.
3. Introduce protections for dingoes within National Parks.
4. Prioritise non-lethal management approaches and fund research into effective coexistence strategies.
5. Ensure First Nations knowledge, perspectives and leadership are incorporated into dingo management and conservation decisions.

Increased protection of dingoes would better align New South Wales policy with contemporary science and respect for Aboriginal cultural values. I urge the Committee to recommend a management framework that supports the long-term conservation of dingoes while also addressing concerns about livestock protection through targeted and humane measures.

Thank you for considering this submission.