

**Submission
No 182**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Dingoes and their Treatment in National Parks in New South Wales

Submitted by: Anne Rolfe

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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the Cultural and Ecological Significance of Dingoes and their Treatment in National Parks in New South Wales.

I am making this submission from the perspective of a rural landholder whose property and livelihood are directly affected by increasing numbers of wild dogs originating from national parks bordering private agricultural land.

While I acknowledge the cultural significance of dingoes to First Nations communities and recognise the importance of conserving Australia's unique wildlife, I believe it is essential that the inquiry also considers the significant impacts experienced by farming families, livestock producers and rural communities who live alongside these populations every day.

Impact on Livestock and Agricultural Enterprises

For many landholders, wild dog activity is not an abstract conservation issue but a daily operational and financial challenge.

Wild dogs can inflict devastating losses on livestock enterprises through direct predation, injury to animals and reduced productivity. Sheep, goats, calves and other vulnerable stock are particularly at risk. Even when livestock are not killed, attacks can result in severe injuries, stress-related losses, reduced fertility rates and ongoing veterinary expenses.

The financial consequences can be substantial. Many farming businesses already operate within narrow profit margins and repeated wild dog attacks can significantly impact farm viability. Beyond the economic cost, there is also the emotional toll associated with finding injured or killed livestock and witnessing unnecessary animal suffering.

Farmers have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of the animals in their care. Effective wild dog management is therefore not only an economic issue but also an important animal welfare issue.

National Parks as a Source of Wild Dog Pressure

Many landholders bordering national parks have observed increasing wild dog activity over recent years. National parks can provide extensive habitat, shelter and breeding opportunities for wild dog populations, which may subsequently move onto neighbouring agricultural properties.

This creates a situation where private landholders bear a significant proportion of the impacts associated with populations that are often protected or managed differently within adjoining public lands.

While conservation objectives within national parks are important, they must be balanced with the rights and livelihoods of neighbouring landholders. Effective management requires cooperation across all land tenures rather than treating public and private land management as separate issues.

Importance of Continued Wild Dog Management

I strongly support the continuation of coordinated wild dog management programs across New South Wales.

I note that this inquiry does not alter existing wild dog management arrangements and that Local Land Services will continue to fulfil its statutory responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2015. This ongoing commitment is critical for rural communities.

Wild dogs do not recognise property boundaries. Effective management requires a coordinated landscape-scale approach involving landholders, Local Land Services, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Aboriginal organisations and other stakeholders.

Management programs should continue to utilise the best available science and provide flexibility to respond to local conditions and risk levels.

Balancing Conservation and Community Needs

The inquiry should carefully consider the distinction between recognising the ecological and cultural significance of dingoes and the practical realities of managing wild dog impacts.

Any changes to policy or management frameworks must take into account:

- Local Wild Dog Management Plans.
- The economic sustainability of agricultural businesses.
- Animal welfare outcomes for livestock.
- The safety and wellbeing of rural families and communities.
- The effectiveness of existing wild dog control measures.
- The need for coordinated cross-tenure management.
- The experiences and knowledge of local landholders.

Landholders possess valuable practical knowledge gained through generations of managing landscapes and livestock. Their experiences should be given significant weight when considering future policy directions.

Concerns Regarding Reduced Management Options

I am concerned that increased protections for dingoes within National Parks would lead to reduce the management options currently available to control wild dog populations that impact neighbouring agricultural land.

Any reduction in control measures, without effective alternative management strategies, is likely increase predation on livestock enterprises and place additional economic, animal welfare and biosecurity burdens on rural landholders. There is a genuine concern among

farming communities that reduced management could lead to significant increases in wild dog populations, placing further pressure on agricultural businesses and rural communities.

It is essential that future policy decisions do not unintentionally transfer the costs and consequences of conservation onto farming families who are already managing significant environmental, economic and biosecurity responsibilities. Effective wild dog management must remain a co-ordinated, cross-tenure responsibility shared by all landowners

Conclusion

Dingoes have cultural and ecological significance that should be recognised and respected. However, this recognition must be balanced against the very real impacts experienced by rural landholders whose livelihoods, livestock and animal welfare responsibilities are affected by increasing wild dog populations.

I encourage the committee to ensure that any future recommendations support a balanced approach that recognises both conservation values and the needs of farming communities. Effective wild dog management across all land tenures must remain a priority to protect agricultural enterprises, animal welfare and the sustainability of rural communities.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Rolfe – Landholder

12th July 2026