

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 July 2026

Partially
Confidential

Current dingo management policies are largely based on outdated genetic research using only 23 genetic markers. Contemporary studies now use up to 195,000 markers and indicate that overwhelmingly, Australia's wild-living canids are dingoes, with hybridisation relatively uncommon in stable, undisturbed populations. In New South Wales, more than three-quarters of sampled wild canids showed over 93% contemporary dingo ancestry.

A [2023 genetic analysis](#) of 307 wild canid samples across Australia found no evidence of free-living domestic dogs or active dingo-dog hybrid populations.

Dingoes with low to moderate levels of dog ancestry still retain the ecological traits and ecosystem function of dingoes, including their role as apex predators.

Dingoes and domestic dogs differ in several key respects, including:

- ecological role (apex predator in Australian ecosystems versus human-associated domestic species)
- social structure (stable, family-based packs versus more opportunistic groupings in domestic dogs)
- breeding patterns (typically annual breeding in dingoes versus multiple breeding cycles in domestic dogs)
- behaviour and ecology (cooperative hunting, territoriality and wild-adapted behaviours in dingoes)

In New South Wales, the term “[wild dog](#)” is an umbrella term used to collectively refer to dingoes, domestic dogs and hybrids. There is no distinction between roaming or stray dogs and dingoes under current legislation.

Current policy settings continue to manage dingoes within broad pest management frameworks despite contemporary ecological and genetic research recognising dingoes as an ecologically important native species.

- Dingoes are Australia's only native canid and are recognised as an important apex predator and keystone species.
- Dingoes [regulate](#) populations of kangaroos and wallabies, reducing grazing pressure on landscapes.
- Dingoes [eradicate introduced goats](#), reducing pressure on vegetation.
- Dingoes [suppress](#), and in some cases eradicate, foxes through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.
- Dingoes [suppress](#) introduced cats through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.

- [Research](#) suggests that stable dingo populations may suppress fox populations more effectively than poison baiting programs alone.
- Dingoes also contribute to the [suppression](#) of pigs, reducing pressure on landscapes.
- The presence of dingoes influences the behaviour and movement of herbivores and other animals, reducing pressure on vegetation communities.
- The [removal](#) of apex predators can destabilise ecosystems, contributing to vegetation decline, habitat degradation and increased pressure on threatened species.
- The 2023 First Nations Dingo Forum brought together 100 Traditional Owners from 20 nations across Australia and led to the development of the National First Nations Dingo Declaration.
- The declaration calls for a new approach centred around “Caring for Dingoes on Country” and greater involvement of Cultural Custodians in dingo management.
- Removal of dingoes causes trophic cascade.
- Removal of dingoes from ecosystems leads to increases in introduced predators and herbivore pressure.
- Trapping of dingoes raises serious welfare concerns for the time the animal remains in the trap, unable to access food, water or shelter.
- Current management programs do not adequately reflect contemporary ecological science or cultural perspectives relating to dingoes.
- Current management of dingoes in National Parks is largely focused on agricultural protection not biodiversity outcomes.
- No funding is allocated for research and development into non-lethal coexistence strategies for agricultural properties neighbouring National Parks.
- Many Cultural Custodians report feeling excluded from decisions relating to dingo management on their Country.
- Longstanding lethal control measures have not eliminated the risk of predation on farmed animals, with some studies finding broad-scale 1080 baiting of dingoes could [exacerbate](#) the risk of predation on calves.
- There is currently no extension services to support landholders to implement non-lethal predator deterrent strategies in New South Wales. Funding currently utilised for broad-scale

1080 baiting of dingoes and trapping and shooting in National Parks could be re-directed to support neighbouring landholders with coexistence extension services.

- Livestock Guardian Dogs have been [proven](#) effective at reducing or eliminating predation on livestock by dingoes. They also provide other benefits to landholders including deterring macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) from grazing paddocks, protection from foxes and protection from birds of prey.
- There is [widespread anecdotal evidence](#) from landholders that donkeys are effective guardians against canid predators. There is a strong opportunity for the New South Wales Government to support more robust trials into the use of livestock guardian donkeys to support properties neighbouring National Parks.
- Investment is needed into research, development and scaling of coexistence strategies in New South Wales that ensures landholder interests are protected and dingoes can be retained in the environment to play their important ecological role.