

**Submission
No 191**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr John Hunter

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As an Aboriginal person Dingoes have a significant place in culture and are an integral part of 'Country'. Dingoes must be allowed to remain in National Parks and not be removed. Dingoes are also a keystone species that have been in the ecosystem for thousands of years. They predate feral animals and have an ecological niche that must be preserved. Any policy which allows harm of dingoes in parks is opposed to Indigenous based land management approaches and detrimentally impacts on Aboriginal spirituality, beliefs and kinship systems. Additionally, definitions of 'wild dogs' undermine existence of eco type specific diversity of dingoes and their habits/characteristics. Dingoes are diverse in their physical traits, and the term 'wild dogs' has been used to destroy dingo populations. Any action that negatively impacts on Dingoes in parks such as '1080 Baiting' and hunting/trapping/removal, harm not only dingoes but a range of native bird species and other endemic wildlife. There is enough documented research to show that dingoes are a keystone species and are endemic with a presence of over 10 000 years in Australian environments. There is also enough anthropological information to highlight that dingoes are sacred and significant to Indigenous people. As a Gamilaraay, Wiradjuri and Darkinyung person, removing dingoes or harming them is a sacrilegious action that is helping to harm our culture. Stating that they are 'mixed blood' and not pure is also an insult, as this type of ignorance is used against us in a detrimental way to justify the destruction of our rights in society. Culturally, dingoes have rights to exist under our law.