

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
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Current dingo management in New South Wales is based on outdated genetic information that relied on only 23 genetic markers to assess dingo ancestry. Contemporary genetic studies now use approximately 195,000 markers and indicate that around 93% of wild canids in NSW possess contemporary dingo ancestry. This newer evidence calls into question management approaches that continue to treat large numbers of wild canids as animals that should be removed from the landscape.

In light of the current genetic evidence, this effectively allows the ongoing removal of a native apex predator and the ecological functions it performs within Australian ecosystems. International examples, such as the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park, demonstrate the profound ecological benefits that can result from maintaining healthy populations of native predators in their natural environments.

Australia is one of only 17 megadiverse countries in the world, yet it also has one of the worst records for mammal extinctions globally. Given this history, we should recognise the important role that dingoes play in maintaining ecological balance and supporting biodiversity. Healthy ecosystems that evolved alongside dingoes are likely to depend on their continued presence.

The routine killing of dingoes within national parks should cease, and Traditional Custodians should be given a greater role in dingo management and decision-making. At the same time, the NSW Government should provide greater financial support, education and extension services to landholders adjacent to national parks. This support should focus on helping landholders coexist with dingoes through practical, non-lethal management strategies that protect livestock and livelihoods while maintaining the ecological and cultural values that dingoes provide.

I urge the Committee to recommend an immediate cessation of dingo control programs within national parks and a review of dingo policies in NSW.