

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

These 3 Actions are what I want to see adopted as a result of this enquiry into the Management of Dingoes in National Parks, thank you.

1) End dingo killing / culling / euthanasia within New South Wales National Parks to protect the ecological function of dingoes and support biodiversity conservation.

2) Greater involvement of Cultural Custodians in decision-making and place-based management regarding dingoes in National Parks to ensure the cultural significance of dingoes is reflected in legislation and management.

3) Financial support and extension of services for landholders surrounding National Parks to implement Non-Lethal coexistence strategies, ensuring their interests are protected and dingoes can be maintained in the environment.

These are my reasonings:-

- Current dingo management policies are largely based on outdated genetic research using only 23 genetic markers.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.
- Research indicates that lethal control methods such as poisoning, trapping and shooting can disrupt stable dingo pack structures, increasing social instability and the likelihood of interbreeding with domestic dogs. Modern conservation science increasingly recognises that ecological function - including the role of dingoes as apex predators - is an important consideration alongside genetics when assessing wildlife populations.
- Dingoes differ from domestic dogs in several important ways, including their ecological role, social structure, breeding patterns, and behaviour. Australia does not have an established continent-wide population of feral domestic dogs living independently across ecosystems, and it is now widely understood that the wild canids occupying these landscapes are dingoes performing important ecological functions.

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.

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.

Dingoes (under the term ‘wild dog’) are classified as priority pest animals under [Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans](#) developed by Local Land Services.

Dingoes are the only native mammal specifically exempt from protections under the [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#), allowing lethal control across National Parks.

- Current management programs rely on lethal control methods including 1080 poison baiting, trapping and shooting.
- Lethal control can disrupt stable dingo family groups and pack structures.
- Disruption of dingo family structures may increase the likelihood of dingoes breeding with domestic dogs.
- 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.

The [National First Nations Dingo Declaration](#), was written by Traditional Owners and outlines a strong cultural perspective on dingoes.

- Dingoes hold deep cultural significance for many Cultural Custodians across New South Wales and the wider continent.
- Dingoes are connected to stories, dance, art, lore, kinship systems and cultural responsibilities to Country.
- Many Cultural Custodians consider dingoes to be protectors, teachers and part of healthy Country.
- 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.
- [Oral histories and archaeological research](#) show that Cultural Custodians buried companion dingoes, with evidence that these animals were given intentional burials consistent with ancestral or ceremonial practices.

I understand that Changes to dingo management within National Parks may create concern for neighbouring landholders in relation to predation on farmed animals. In this regard the Government could support the development, accessibility, and broader adoption of effective non-lethal predator deterrents.

- 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.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission,

Yours sincerely,