

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales

I am writing because I believe our *native dingoes deserve full protection under NSW law*. The current exemption from the Biodiversity Conservation Act is unjustifiable, and this inquiry must address it.

I make this submission as a NSW resident and voter, a regular visitor to our national parks, and someone with a strong interest in animal welfare.

Dingoes should be protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act

The Committee should recommend that dingoes be given full protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Dingoes are the only native mammal specifically exempt from protection under that Act. That exemption is no longer defensible. Dingoes are native animals, apex predators and an important part of Australia's ecosystems. They should be recognised and managed as wildlife, not treated as pests.

NSW law should not allow humans to pick and choose which native animals are protected based on whether they are convenient, popular or easy to manage. All native animals have inherent value and a place within their ecosystems. Dingoes should not be denied protection simply because they are predators.

Lethal control in national parks should end

The Committee should recommend an end to 1080 poisoning, baiting, trapping and shooting of dingoes in NSW national parks. These practices are cruel, outdated and inconsistent with the purpose of protecting native wildlife in conservation areas.

Dingoes are sentient animals capable of experiencing pain, fear and distress. Trapping can leave animals injured, terrified and exposed without access to food, water or shelter. 1080 poisoning causes prolonged suffering and can affect non-target animals. Shooting and broad-scale killing can also disrupt stable dingo family groups and territorial structures, creating further ecological and welfare problems.

National parks should not be places where native animals are subjected to routine lethal control. NSW should replace these methods with humane, evidence-based and non-lethal management.

Dingo management should be based on science

The Committee should recommend that dingo management be separated from broad "wild dog" pest control frameworks.

Dingoes are not domestic dogs. They are a unique native species with their own biology, behaviour, social structure and ecological role. The use of broad "wild dog" terminology fails to properly recognise dingoes as native animals and contributes to outdated and harmful management approaches.

Dingoes play an important ecological role. As apex predators, they help regulate other animal populations, including introduced predators such as foxes and cats, and can help reduce grazing pressure from herbivores. Removing dingoes from landscapes risks destabilising ecosystems and undermining biodiversity outcomes in the very places that should be managed for conservation.

NSW should support coexistence, not killing

The Committee should recommend that NSW invest in practical, non-lethal coexistence strategies for landholders neighbouring national parks.

Some landholders may have concerns about livestock, but those concerns should not justify routine lethal control of dingoes inside national parks. The appropriate response is not to keep killing native wildlife in conservation areas. It is to support landholders with practical, humane and evidence-based tools.

This should include funding and advice for fencing, guardian animals, husbandry improvements, deterrents, education and extension services. It should also include greater support for dingo research, conservation, rehabilitation, public education and sanctuary work.

Animal welfare needs independent oversight

The Committee should recommend stronger independent oversight of animal welfare in NSW, including the establishment of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare.

This current issue of insufficient legal protection for dingoes reflects a broader problem in NSW law and policy: too often, animals are treated as either private property, or 'problems' to be managed rather than sentient beings with their own interests. Cruel practices continue because animal welfare is not given strong, independent consideration in government decision-making.

It should not fall so heavily on individual citizens to advocate for basic protection for animals who cannot speak for themselves. NSW Parliament should protect the interests of the whole state - people, animals and the environment - now and for future generations.

Recommendations

I ask the Committee to recommend that NSW:

1. Remove the dingo exemption from the Biodiversity Conservation Act and recognise dingoes as protected native wildlife.
2. End lethal control of dingoes in national parks, including 1080 baiting, trapping and shooting.
3. Replace pest-based "wild dog" management with evidence-based dingo conservation and non-lethal coexistence strategies.
4. Invest in landholder support, dingo research, conservation, rehabilitation, public education and sanctuary work.
5. Establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare to ensure animals' interests are properly considered in law and policy.

Dingoes belong in our national parks. They are native animals, apex predators and an essential part of healthy Australian ecosystems. They should be protected, respected and allowed to live safely in the landscapes they have helped shape for thousands of years.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards,

NSW Resident