

**Submission
No 242**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 16 July 2026

To whom it may concern.

The Dingo.

The Dingo is something of immense importance to my family, as we are 7 years into fostering an orphaned Dingo. She was wild born, as her mother was thoughtlessly poisoned – such is the draconian and outdated management of Dingoes. Peggy, is her name & she is a mystical and incredibly complex animal. She is a big part of our family and she must be cared for in a special way.

She is not to be confused with a domestic dog, a cat or even a fox. She is cultural and national icon of which the traditional owners of these vast lands hold close to their hearts. You see she was here long before specific breeds of dogs, long before European settlers and long before our cruel and lazy 'management' policies effectively wiped out families and pack structures across the land. She has her claws firmly planted in the skin of many Aboriginal tales of old – spoken and depicted – and claims the powerful title of companion, hunter and guard amongst the lore of time past. She is important to them & often were buried alongside them.

She is a willing hunter. She brings untold benefit to the landscape. They are the ONLY apex predator that has clearly evolved to live out in the rugged space outside our great cities and in the bush. They are effective in predating wild pigs, deer, foxes, cats and other introduced species of which destroy the environment and decimate our unique marsupials. It is also well illustrated online that Dingoes effectively shape shift and evolve to the landscape they inhabit, thicker coats above snow lines, shorter coats and tonal coat adjustments in the desert areas. They truly are territorial and adaptable to environmental changes.

She cannot be defeated and for Australia – it would be disastrous. Another national icon pushed off the edge of the cliff. Disgraceful and frankly outdated, Too long we have employed the use of physical traps – for which inflict immense pain and stress on a sentient animal - and lazy 1080 poison. We need to look forward and plug in measures that help the Dingo live alongside our type. Donkeys, guardian dogs, adequate fencing and countless other ideas that holistic farmers are now using with success out here in Australia. A farm does not operate in a vacuum and the knock-on effect of apex predator removal is extremely clear across the nation right now. Kangaroos in excessive numbers, wild pigs, deer, foxes and plain old house cats going rogue and feasting upon billions of native animals per year.

This review must look at what is happening in our National Parks in places I grew up in. there is not a Roo or a Wallaby, let alone a Dingo. These lazy and cruel poison programs kill up and down the food chain – it is indiscriminate in it's callousness. In our rush to placate industry we have destroyed much of the structure of the animal kingdom in our great parks and for that, we should be ashamed. Having bush-walked, biked, skied and driven through countless National Parks, I can say with certainty – the Dingo is not a threat, in fact it's population and very existence is being brought to it's knees.

She, Peggy and all those who come after her are an important part of our biosphere. We teach kids at an early age to respect the environment, yet we don't do anything remotely close for our wild orange friends. Cruelly this notion of respect is flipped on it's head anytime there is asymmetry with humans. This is not respect for an animal that has done all that the Dingo has done for Australia, an animal that has been around on this dirt and

sand for over 10,000 years. Not to believe anything of the sort, is to cast aside the very theory of evolution itself and orients us to a bastardised view of Australian flora and fauna.

It's time to work with our apex predator as many have already done. Work with the traditional owners of the land, team up for parks across this state. Create a harmonious strategy and orders of magnitude less sanitised existence for our creatures. Show them the respect they deserve and help the Keystone species, that is the Dingo run free in the bush and o play it's vital role. It would bring the nation immense pride to one day understand and appreciate the mystical and precious native canid, the Dingo.

With all my love for the mystical creature – the Dingo.
Mike Galvin