

**Submission
No 257**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I believe it's time for New South Wales to review how dingoes are managed in our National Parks. The current approach doesn't reflect what we now know about their ecological importance, the welfare issues surrounding lethal control, or the cultural significance of dingoes to First Nations peoples.

Current management relies heavily on lethal methods like 1080 baiting, trapping and shooting. While these methods are often used to protect neighbouring agricultural land, they come with serious consequences that shouldn't be ignored.

Dingoes live in stable family groups, and when those packs are broken apart through lethal control it can have a ripple effect. Disrupting pack structures can increase the chances of dingoes breeding with domestic dogs, putting the genetic integrity of wild dingoes at risk.

As Australia's apex predator, dingoes play a huge role in keeping ecosystems healthy. Removing them can cause trophic cascades, where populations of introduced predators like foxes and feral cats, as well as herbivores, increase. This places even more pressure on native wildlife and biodiversity—the very things National Parks are supposed to protect.

I'm also concerned about the welfare of dingoes under the current system. Trapping can leave animals confined for long periods without food, water or shelter, causing unnecessary suffering. The use of 1080 poison also raises significant animal welfare concerns.

It also seems that current management is still largely focused on protecting agriculture rather than achieving biodiversity outcomes within National Parks. If conservation is the primary purpose of our National Parks, then management decisions should reflect that.

I would also like to see more funding invested into researching and implementing non-lethal coexistence strategies for neighbouring farms. Better fencing, guardian animals and other preventative measures deserve more attention instead of relying so heavily on lethal control.