

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a 22 year old third year Ecology student living on Gadigal land. Next year I will complete my Honours in which I plan to investigate different non-lethal deterrents for dingoes.

I feel strongly about improving the ecological, genetic, cultural and animal welfare impacts associated with current dingo management programs in New South Wales National Parks.

Specifically:

1. An **end to dingo killing 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 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.

The removal of dingos causes trophic cascades. Current management of dingoes in National Parks is largely focused on agricultural protection not biodiversity outcomes.

Yet...

- Dingoes [regulate](#) populations of kangaroos and wallabies, reducing grazing pressure on landscapes.
- Dingoes [eradicate introduced goats](#), reducing pressure on vegetation.
- Dingoes [suppress](#), and in some cases eradicate, foxes through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.
- Dingoes [suppress](#) introduced cats through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.
- [Research](#) suggests that stable dingo populations may suppress fox populations more effectively than poison baiting programs alone.
- Dingoes also contribute to the [suppression](#) of pigs, reducing pressure on landscapes.
- The presence of dingoes influences the behaviour and movement of herbivores and other animals, reducing pressure on vegetation communities.
- The [removal](#) of apex predators can destabilise ecosystems, contributing to vegetation decline, habitat degradation and increased pressure on threatened species.

While it is clear that Dingoes are ecologically important there is currently no funding allocated for research and development into non-lethal coexistence strategies for agricultural properties neighbouring National Parks.

Current management programs rely on lethal control methods. Not only does the trapping of dingoes raise serious welfare concerns for the time the animal remains in the trap and is unable to access food, water or shelter. But, lethal control can disrupt stable dingo family groups and pack structures which may increase the likelihood of dingoes breeding with domestic dogs.

Current lethal control of dingoes across NSW national parks needs to end.

I believe that changes to dingo management in NSW should support the development, accessibility, and broader adoption of effective non-lethal predator deterrents. Including:

- 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.

I would like to make it clear that:

- 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.
- Current management programs do not adequately reflect contemporary ecological science or cultural perspectives relating to dingoes.

There is currently no extension services to support landholders to implement non-lethal predator deterrent strategies in New South Wales. I would like to suggest that 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.

Furthermore, I believe there needs to be change in how dingoes are classified and managed under existing legislation and policy frameworks in New South Wales. Specifically, I believe the term 'Wild dog' needs to be removed, and there needs to be a more appropriate recognition of dingoes as ecologically important wildlife. Which includes the protection of dingoes under the [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#), from which they are currently excluded.

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, this needs to be addressed.

Dingoes (under the term 'wild dog') are classified as priority pest animals under [Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans](#) developed by Local Land Services. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service [undertake](#) dingo ('wild-dog') control on public conservation land in order to meet its 'General Biosecurity Duty' under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) to manage pest animals, and align with the priorities set out in the New South Wales Wild Dog Management Strategy.

Information obtained under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 revealed that more than 1.5 million 1080 poison baits targeting dingoes were deployed by New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) between 2020 and 2025.

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.

Additionally, I support greater involvement of Cultural Custodians in dingo management and conservation across New South Wales National Parks. [National First Nations Dingo Declaration](#).

I believe that there is overwhelming evidence supporting the ecological importance of dingoes, and the flaws in how they are currently managed across NSW. I understand that agriculture and landholders are a huge stakeholder in dingo management, but believe that current lethal control management is archaic and has huge widespread impacts on entire ecosystems. **Greater funding, development, initiative and support in the adoption of non-lethal predator deterrents is imperative** and will ensure landholder interests are protected and dingoes can be retained in the environment to play their important ecological role.

I appreciate the time taken to read and consider this submission.