

**Submission
No 290**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Isabella Fernandez

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Dear all,

My name is Isabella; I grew up in Sydney and now reside in the Blue Mountains. I spend a lot of time travelling and working in the country. I work in the environmental sector.

I'm pleased to see this inquiry established as I am deeply concerned about how dingoes are managed in NSW.

I strongly believe there should be an end to dingo killing within NSW National Parks to protect the ecological function of dingoes and support biodiversity conservation. Dingoes are our only apex predator and suppress pest species; cats, foxes etc. These pests are hard to eradicate through normal measures. They also keep large unsustainable numbers of native animals down E.g. kangaroos, wallabies.

Dingoes may be considered pests by some, but they have been here for nearly 5,000-10,000 years. The ecosystem requires an apex predator to keep the system in check, a good example of this is satellite imagery from both sides of the dingo fence - the dingo side thriving and the other side a dust bowl from over grazing by pests and kangaroos. There are also many ecosystems internationally that have reintroduced their Apex predators and have benefitted.

The use of the coined term 'wild dog' so cleverly manufactured to convince the public that it is mainly hybrid dogs in NSW being 'managed' is backwards and needs to stop. There are so many modern/current scientific studies proving that nearly all 'wild dogs' have such a high percentage of dingo in them not dog. An example is Dr Kylie Cairns research.

The current control of using 1080 to kill dingoes is a cruel and barbaric practice. These animals die a slow inhumane death. 1080 is banned in nearly all other countries. How are we still using something that kills animals so painfully?

Killing dingoes break up their families and make them unstable; they are more likely to prey upon vulnerable livestock. I don't believe in killing dingoes, but I understand that it can be very traumatic when a dingo kills a farmer's livestock and of course the knock-on financial effects etc. but there are non-lethal methods of management that farmers can use, these need to be supported. Once again, many examples all over the country of farms with livestock living alongside dingo families. A prime example is Woolen station in WA. The dingo family is stable and does not cause harm to their livestock.

The Australian public care about dingoes and this is only going to increase as more ecological and genetic studies and non-lethal livestock management practices become prevalent. NSW National Parks needs to take a stand and protect these animals; it is disgraceful and against the ethos for the creation of national parks to destroy these creatures. NSW National Parks has a very special opportunity to lead the way for better management.

I urge and beg you to change NSW National Parks management practices of dingoes. Protect our apex predators.