

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Inquiry into dingoes in national parks in New South Wales, 2026

Dear Members of the NSW Legislative Council Animal Welfare Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry into dingoes in national parks in New South Wales.

I'm writing as an individual and researcher, with personal and academic connection to NSW public lands. I grew up in Urila, a valley bordering the Tinderry mountains south-east of Canberra, and have spent much time in the Alps and south coast regions of our beautiful state. My PhD studies explore human-nonhuman relationship and ideas of coexistence in relation to carnivore conservation. I specifically explored the consequences of human decision-making on nonhuman life, including how the ways that we categorise parts of the nonhuman world affects how we relate to and make decisions about them. My studies focused on the North American example of wolves, but this issue is particularly salient with regards to dingoes, where their status as native/non-native, pest/protected, or dingo/dog has profound consequences for their wellbeing. These personal and academic experiences inform my submission.

Dingoes are significant ecologically and culturally, and conflict over their management is an ongoing tension in NSW. Classifying dingoes as 'wild dogs' and 'pest' animals is unethical, culturally disrespectful, and ecologically damaging. The use of 1080 poisons and traps is archaic, unethical, and unnecessary. The needless suffering caused to dingoes and other animals through baiting programs goes against the objectives of biodiversity conservation that the NSW Government supposedly supports. Removing apex predators and indiscriminately introducing toxins to the environment causes ecological harm and imbalance, and may have perverse unintended consequences in terms of increasing grazing pressure and undermining livestock production in adjacent areas.

The lethal management of dingoes in NSW reflects a siloed and out-dated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, does not reflect best-practice evidence, and is a highly-contested issue that will not disappear. Furthermore, the continued implementation of this approach to dingo management not only causes unwanted ecological harm, but prevents the development of the respect and relational understanding needed to coexist.

I strongly oppose lethal control of dingoes. I urge the NSW Government to:

- recognise the ecological and cultural importance of dingoes, through legal protection within national parks and elsewhere;
- invest in coexistence strategies and non-lethal management approaches (e.g. guardian animals, flagging, fencing, etc);
- deliver evidence-informed, culturally respectful education campaigns about dingoes (including dispelling prevalent myths about hybridisation and coat colours), and their ecological importance and benefits;
- involve local Aboriginal knowledge holders in co-management of national parks;
- embed holistic ecosystem-based management principles and practices (rather than single-species approaches) in national parks;

- think holistically and relationally about the arrangements of human and nonhuman life that we consider to be desirable;
- invest in ongoing monitoring of dingo populations and support research into their impacts on biodiversity and the health of Country
- invest in education programmes to build in the wider population, including landholders, an understanding, tolerance, and knowledge of appropriate behaviours of coexistence with dingoes.

Dingoes, as culturally and ecologically significant nonhuman beings, should be protected under legislation, treated with respect and care, and coexisted with in a thriving natural environment.