

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the New South Wales Government – Protecting Dingoes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly support greater protection for dingoes in New South Wales.

For the past six years, I have been a dingo guardian. Living alongside a dingo every day has completely changed my understanding of these remarkable animals. They are intelligent, emotionally aware, highly social and deeply connected to their families and their environment. They deserve to be recognised as one of Australia's most important native species, not simply managed as a pest.

My partner is a Bundjalung Aboriginal Elder, and through our family I have come to understand the profound cultural significance of dingoes. For countless generations, dingoes have been respected as companions, protectors and an integral part of Country. Aboriginal knowledge and cultural values must play a central role in decisions about their future management and protection.

Our dingo was born in the wild and became an orphan before coming into our care. Although he has remained true to his wild nature, he has also shown us that coexistence is possible when people understand and respect dingoes.

Our dingo has never been chained or kept in a small enclosure. We believe an animal as intelligent and socially aware as a dingo deserves the opportunity to express natural behaviours. My Bundjalung partner believes that permanently chaining or confining a dingo is inconsistent with the respect that should be shown to such an intelligent native animal. His views are shaped by Bundjalung cultural values and by an awareness of Australia's history, where restraint and confinement carry a painful legacy for Aboriginal people.

Our dingo has the freedom to roam and explore, yet he always returns home. We have fitted him with a GPS tracker so we can monitor his movements and ensure his safety. The tracker has allowed us to better understand his natural behaviour, his travel patterns and his connection to the landscape. Our relationship has been built on trust rather than restraint, demonstrating that respect and understanding can achieve far more than confinement.

His physical endurance is remarkable. If given the opportunity, he will happily walk up to 15 kilometres in a day, and he is capable of doing this every day. This is natural behaviour for a dingo. It demonstrates why permanent chaining or prolonged confinement is inappropriate and detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing. Dingoes are intelligent, active animals that require space, exercise and environmental stimulation.

Our experiences have also shown us just how social dingoes are. Over time, our dingo formed a trusting relationship with a local family who now welcome him, and he has developed a close bond with their male dog. Watching these relationships develop naturally has reinforced our understanding that dingoes are capable of forming meaningful and lasting social connections with both people and other animals.

Our local community knows that he roams freely. Neighbours have adapted in practical ways that support both their animals and our dingo. Chickens are safely secured, and sheep are protected by geese. This creates a balance where everyone understands their role in living alongside a native predator.

The GPS tracker has shown us that he moves through the landscape naturally. When he walks through neighbouring properties, he investigates his surroundings, follows scents and continues on his way before returning home. Despite having the opportunity, he has never harmed anyone, threatened anyone or attacked livestock. He has never shown any interest in attacking cattle. He eats the food that is provided for him and is a healthy, well-cared-for member of our family.

Our experience demonstrates that coexistence is achievable. It requires understanding, responsible animal husbandry and a willingness to respect Australia's native wildlife rather than automatically viewing dingoes as a problem to be eliminated. While every dingo is an individual, our own experience shows that they should not be judged solely through outdated stereotypes or fear-based assumptions.

The Ecological Importance of Dingoes

Scientific research increasingly recognises dingoes as Australia's apex terrestrial predator and a keystone species that plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance.

As a top-order predator, the dingo helps regulate populations of other animals within the ecosystem, including introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats, as well as herbivore populations. The removal or suppression of apex predators can create unintended ecological changes, affecting biodiversity and the balance of natural systems.

Research has shown that stable dingo populations and family groups contribute to healthier ecosystems. Disrupting these social structures through broad-scale lethal control can have consequences that extend beyond individual animals, affecting pack behaviour, territory and ecological relationships.

Dingo management should therefore be based on science, cultural knowledge and evidence-based approaches. Where genuine conflicts occur, solutions should focus on practical, non-lethal strategies that protect livestock while allowing dingoes to continue their important role in the environment.

Our own experience reflects the importance of understanding individual animals and their behaviour. Through GPS tracking and responsible guardianship, we have been able to

demonstrate that a wild-born dingo can live alongside a community without conflict when there is respect, preparation and understanding.

Request for Stronger Protection

I respectfully ask the New South Wales Government to:

- Strengthen legal protections for dingoes throughout New South Wales.
- Recognise dingoes as Australia's native apex predator and an essential part of ecosystem health.
- Ensure Aboriginal knowledge, including the knowledge of Bundjalung people and other Traditional Owners, is incorporated into dingo management decisions.
- Support non-lethal livestock protection methods and coexistence programs.
- Protect genetically important wild dingo populations and their habitat.
- Introduce stronger welfare standards that prevent long-term chaining and inadequate confinement of dingoes kept in captivity.
- Support community education that promotes understanding and responsible coexistence between people and dingoes.

Too often, dingoes are viewed through fear rather than understanding. My own experience over the past six years has shown me an animal that is intelligent, loyal, social and deserving of respect.

He is a wild-born orphan who has taught us that trust, freedom and coexistence are possible. He has shown us that people and dingoes can live alongside one another when there is understanding, preparation and mutual respect.

Dingoes are not simply predators to be controlled. They are Australia's native apex predator, an irreplaceable part of our biodiversity, and a living part of Aboriginal culture. Protecting them means protecting the health of our ecosystems, respecting Indigenous knowledge and preserving an animal that belongs in the Australian landscape.

Future generations deserve to inherit a New South Wales where dingoes continue to fulfil their ecological role, where Indigenous knowledge is respected, and where these remarkable animals are protected rather than persecuted.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,