

**Submission
No 308**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Mary Forbes

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I wish to make a submission in favour of the protection of our native dingo. I feel very strongly about these unique, special animals and I feel we should be very proud of such a distinctive creature. The dingo holds an elevated status in Australian heritage and is even more highly valued in indigenous culture. We have failed a noble animal with a proud tradition if we omit to afford it the same protections as other wildlife species.

As an apex predator, the dingo plays a vital ecological role. The dingo is our most powerful weapon in the management of invasive species. I live in a rural area and have observed that the populations of feral cats, feral dogs and foxes have declined dramatically with the increase of dingoes that frequent a neighbouring National Park.

Dingoes' instincts are more intact than those of feral dogs so that, when dingoes hunt, they only attack prey they know they can kill cleanly; whereas feral dogs chase and maim more indiscriminately.

According to a recent Deakin University study, dingo scats indicate livestock as only 2% of their diet, which could represent predation or scavenging.

I am strongly opposed to the use of 1080, as I have seen the collateral damage caused to wildlife. It is appallingly cruel and inhumane, inflicting an agonising death on all its victims, and wildlife in Eastern Australia have not developed immunity to it.

NSW's current approach to dingo management is out of step with modern, evidence-based wildlife management. I urge the committee to recommend that lethal practices be replaced with humane, non-lethal alternatives that allow dingoes to exist safely within our national parks. I urge you to help end the persecution and grant the beautiful dingo full protection.