

**Submission
No 309**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Ellie Herodes

Date Received: 17 July 2026

To the Animal Welfare Committee,

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into dingoes in national parks in New South Wales.

I travel a lot around Australia, and some of my favourite memories are of time spent in and around national parks. These are the places where our native animals are meant to be safe, cherished and admired. So it was confronting to learn that dingoes are the only native animal in NSW not protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. Every other native species gets protection. Dingoes get poison, traps and bullets, and they get it inside parks that exist to protect nature. Our native animals and wild places are one of our greatest strengths, and dingoes are part of that.

Dingoes have lived on this continent for thousands of years. They were here long before farms and fences, and they are still here, part of this country's story in a way that deserves respect. They are here with us, and it is their home as much as it is ours, and that alone should be reason enough to protect them rather than harm them.

What distresses me most is the cruelty of how they are killed. More than 1.5 million 1080 poison baits targeting dingoes were laid in NSW national parks between 2020 and 2025. A trapped dingo can be left for hours or days without food, water or shelter, frightened and in pain, waiting to be shot. I cannot accept that this is done in our name, on public land, to a sentient native animal.

Some will argue that dingoes do not belong in the same category as other native animals, and that this is what justifies treating them so differently under the law. The usual version of this is that dingoes are somehow not really native, or not really dingoes at all, but that does not hold up. Contemporary research shows the wild canids across our landscapes are overwhelmingly dingoes, not feral dogs. So the reasoning behind killing them does not stand, and it should not be used to keep denying them protection.

I also want to acknowledge the cultural significance dingoes hold for many First Nations communities. It is not my place to speak on their behalf. Still, I support the National First Nations Dingo Declaration and its call for Caring for Dingoes on Country, and I urge the committee to ensure Cultural Custodians are central to decisions about dingoes on their Country.

We can live alongside dingoes without killing them. Poisoning, trapping and shooting native animals in the places meant to keep them safe is a choice, and it is one we can stop making. A kind and modern society protects the animals it shares this country with.

I urge the committee to recommend that dingoes be given full protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, and that lethal control of dingoes in national parks, including 1080 poisoning, baiting, trapping and shooting, be brought to an end.

Sincerely,

Ellie Herodes