

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Rebecca Smith

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Dear Committee,

Dingoes are the only native animal unprotected in NSW.

Dingoes are not dogs and their closest relatives are the extremely rare New Guinea singing dogs.

As a young person 50 years ago, prevailing thought was that there were no pure dingoes left in Australia. Modern DNA testing has shown this propaganda to be false. The Australian public is very fond of dingoes, so governments cynically promulgate the falsehood that dingoes are hybrids, and lump dingoes in with "wild dogs", the almost non-existent feral dog.

Dingoes regulate the environment by keeping large macropods literally "on the hop", allowing grazing space for smaller mammals. Dingoes suppress pigs, rabbits, goats and other introduced species, and kill introduced meso predators including foxes and cats. The science of dingoes' role in the environment is well known and the committee has access to it.

Baiting any animal is a sadistic abomination that causes the excruciating and painful deaths, and it is an anachronism that poison is still used in Australia and NSW.

Graziers concerned about dingo predation (negligible for cattle) can mitigate with the use of guardian animals or better husbandry methods. Well known in the sheep industry is the deaths of 15 million lambs each year to non-existent husbandry, and the lambs die of exposure to cold weather, yet these same people complain about occasional predation.

We the Australian people demand our beloved national icon be protected from harm in the environment, and particularly in national parks.

The cruel killing of dingoes in NSW in national parks is an international embarrassment.

Rebecca Smith