Submission No 327

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 17 July 2026

Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Animal Welfare Committee

Inquiry into the Treatment and the Cultural and Ecological Significance of Dingoes in National Parks in New South Wales

Submitted by: Sally Edwards - current landowner and resident (since 2012) of the Tambar Springs area, with nearby conservation areas of Trinkey State Conservation Area (10,229ha), Tinkrameanah National Park (969ha) and Coolah Tops National Park (12,117ha).

I grew up in the 1980/90s living and farming in the Curricabark Valley between Coneac State Conservation Area (804ha) and Woko National Park (8598ha). Current family pastoral property in this area. My family and I have deep personal and generational connections to this land that is geographically located close to the Barrington Tops National Park (74,500ha) and surrounding conservation areas (>10,000ha).

In this submission, the terms “community” and “communities” are used in their broadest and most inclusive sense. They refer to all groups of people who live in, work on, care for, or have a connection to the landscapes and ecosystems of New South Wales. This includes Indigenous communities, farming and grazing communities, residents of towns and rural areas, recreational user groups of National Parks, conservation organisations, and any other geographical, cultural, religious, or interest-based groups or communities. This submission recognises that effective and lasting management of National Parks and the surrounding working landscapes can only be achieved through genuine partnership with those living, working, caring for and existing in and near these areas.

Through the process of drafting my submission, it has only just come to my awareness that the name Wild Dogs typically refers to Dingoes and includes hybrids/crossbreds. For the sake of this submission, my understanding has been that there were Dingoes and Wild Dogs.

Date: 17 July 2026

Executive Summary

This submission responds to the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference using clear evidence, scientific research, personal and practical experience, and a balanced view and

understanding of the practical realities and inherent value of both farming and the natural environment. It shows that effective conservation and productive farming are not mutually exclusive; both are essential to the ecological, cultural, economic and social fabric of New South Wales and Australia.

NSW currently has over 7.7 million hectares of protected land in National Parks, State Conservation Areas (SCAs), Flora Reserves, Biodiversity Conservation Trusts and other protected areas. National Parks alone currently requires NSW Government investment of over $400million in ongoing management and operations paid for from general taxpayer funds.

Grazing country in NSW accounts for approximately 41 million hectares.

Because livestock grazing accounts for approximately 78% of the state's land (with a gross value of production of approx $9.5billion), thousands of kilometers of National Park boundaries directly adjoin active pastoral properties.

It must be acknowledged and considered that the significant average increase in land purchases for National Parks in NSW has nearly doubled since 2019. From the 1970s to the 2010s, the average land acquisition each year was approx 60,000ha, but since 2019 the average land acquisition is over 150,000ha per year in NSW. What is the long-term plan for land acquisition for National Parks? By all reports both Federal and State Governments are actively increasing acquisition activities to meet legislated targets. While this Inquiry is not the place to debate the merits of this move, this continued decrease in grazing land and increase in National Parks must be sensibly measured and evaluated in this Inquiry due to its direct relevance. It is particularly important to highlight that in the Western Division, in the semi-arid outback, where the government frequently purchases massive pastoral properties to convert into National Parks (such as the 100,000ha Comeroo Station expansion near Bourke), the new National Parks end up sharing vast, direct boundaries with active, multi-thousand-hectare cattle and sheep stations.

The Australian Government estimates that wild dogs cost the agricultural sector up to $302 million each year, with livestock losses identified as the primary impact. Although under-reporting is common because carcasses are missed or attacks go unverified.

Good conservation in National Parks must be done in genuine partnership with local graziers and farmers, and all local communities and groups. Those who live and breathe these ecosystems daily. It cannot be underestimated how closely connected these landscapes are — wildlife, feral animals, fire and water move freely across boundaries. Stewardship of these ecosystems require active, adaptive, evidence-based management—not passive protection of any single species.

Central to this submission is the non-negotiable requirement that comprehensive, verifiable and publicly available baseline population numbers of dingoes across NSW National Parks must be established first. No consideration should be given and no policy should be developed or proposed to protect the dingo species until this essential baseline data is in place. We MUST know where we are at, before we take any further steps. Only with accurate, current and transparent population figures, and distribution mapping can any subsequent management or protection measures be responsibly designed, supported by the community and implemented.

This submission **makes nine practical** recommendations. They focus on gaining verifiable baseline population data, continued successful management of problem dingoes and wild dogs to prevent increasing stock losses, smarter and nuanced management that considers potentially protecting pure dingo populations in publicly accepted core wilderness areas/National Parks, stronger cross-boundary working partnerships, practical and ongoing support for livestock production, protection of all threatened species — not just one, and continuous improvement in humane and targeted control methods. These measures aim to strengthen both farming viability, the welfare of all animals and biodiversity outcomes for the benefit of all Australians.

1. Introduction and Personal Perspective

I grew up in the mountains surrounding Gloucester, New South Wales, right next to Barrington Tops National Park and a mix of state forests and grazing land. It was obvious and expected that wildlife are never bound by fences or park boundaries. Neither was fire, floodwater, weeds and feral animals. Dingoes and wild dogs moved freely in the hills and mountains mostly motivated by seasonal availability of food, easy access to food, or by water.

Growing up, we never actually combined the terms dingo and wild dog, we never considered them the same. We spoke of dingoes, wild dogs and cross-breds. I remember it normal to tell dingoes apart from other wild dogs by their looks, calls

and behaviour. True dingoes often had the classic yellow or sandy coat with white markings on the chest, feet and tail tip, a bushy tail that curled up, and a lean build. They usually howled rather than barking and seemed to have established territories, often seen trotting down tracks on their own, avoiding human interaction or watching cautiously - their behaviour was more timid and they were more often heard than seen. Wild dogs - called wild dogs locally - showed more varied colours (some visibly looked crossed with known dog breeds, like kelpies and german shepherds), could be heard barking, and acted with bolder behaviour around livestock, vehicles and people. They were often seen in pairs and as years went on, in packs. There were local stories as to where these “wild-dogs” originated, ranging from lost dogs, to dumped animals to dogs breeding with the dingoes. I acknowledge the acceptance over the years for landowners and the NSW Government to effectively manage them all as “Wild Dogs”. It is mindful to remember the damage caused by predators on livestock is not improved by the name we give them, the damage is distressing, often cruel, ultimately costly and cannot be overlooked simply because of a native specie name.

Grazing and farming families and businesses - mainly sheep and beef cattle, and mixed businesses - have long dealt with times of predation on lambs and calves by wild dogs. These losses create real financial and emotional pressure on families, and are actively managed (or attempted) by farmers through good communication with neighbours, local dog management groups and active trapping, baiting and ground shooting.

The expansion and management of National Parks, while seeking to deliver real conservation benefits for native plants, animals and cultural heritage, also directly affects surrounding farms and communities, whether it be in proliferation of weeds, pests and in some cases wildlife or the source of serious bushfires. The farmers and local people that I grew up with, and those we work with today support sensible and balanced conservation efforts - we live with these outcomes every day. What we need is practical, evidence-based management that supports both healthy and balanced natural systems and productive grazing and farming. These two things should support each other and both ultimately matter greatly to the whole country.

2. Genetic Status, Distinction Between Dingoes and Other Wild Dogs, and the Need for Better Baseline Data (TOR a; Points 2 & 3)

Clearly understanding the populations across areas and to varying degrees, genetics of dingoes in NSW National Parks is essential for good decisions. In 2009,

the NSW Scientific Committee listed predation and interbreeding by wild dogs as a Key Threatening Process because hybridisation threatens the distinct identity of dingoes. I believe this to still be a current risk. Older studies using limited genetic markers or skull measurements often concluded that pure dingoes were rare or gone in eastern Australia - which never made sense to me, given what we saw growing up.

The results reported from a major 2023 genomic study are proposing something else entirely. Reports are saying something along these lines "*Researchers analysed DNA from 307 wild canids across Australia using advanced testing with nearly 195,000 genetic markers. They found that most of these animals were pure dingoes or carried very high dingo ancestry. In the New South Wales samples, over 60% were pure dingoes, and only two animals had less than 70% dingo ancestry. No first-generation (50/50) hybrids or pure feral domestic dogs appeared in the wild samples. Where some dog ancestry existed, it usually came from generations earlier, not recent mixing.*"

Upon reading the research myself, I discovered that in point **2.1 Canid sampling**
It clearly states: **"***We collected tissue, blood or buccal samples from* ***307 wild and 84 captive dingoes*** *from locations across Australia (Figure 1, Dryad dataset: [https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.vq83bk3ww])***.**
Source: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/mec.16998

There ARE known wild dog populations that are categorised by locals as not Dingoes, I believe more in some areas than others. These populations need testing too.

It would appear that the results found were targeted results, given that only *"wild and captive dingoes"* were tested. **Less than 100 dingo samples came from across all NSW regions.**

If what is reported is correct, I can see that there appear to be beneficial results also received from this study and understanding gained on genetic markers. The study showed at least five distinct dingo population groups across Australia, including clear eastern and western clusters. Detailed sampling locations and data are publicly available through the Dryad repository linked to the paper.

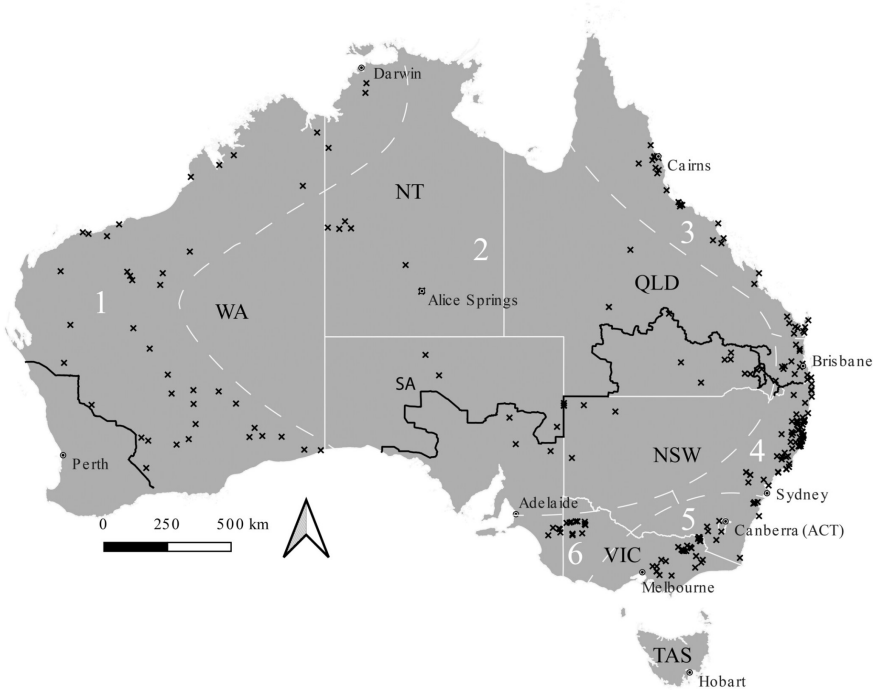

Figure 1

I can also see that the testing of less that 500 dingoes or wild dogs and domesticated dogs across the entire country would likely not provide a clear picture of what is happening in these populations on the ground. Take the number tested from Central and Western NSW as an example. Testing 3x dingoes, cannot possibly provide any valuable information for these populations dingo OR wild dogs. Testing must be carried out on BOTH dingo and wild dog populations and be across sufficient numbers.

We still lack comprehensive, park-by-park population mapping across NSW National Parks, and area-specific known wild-dog/dingo populations across NSW. Current information comes mostly from animals removed during control programs and it would appear numbers are limited, rather than from systematic on-the-ground surveys.

To me, the main long-term risk to dingoes on mainland Australia remains gradual loss of their unique genetic makeup through ongoing interbreeding with domestic and wild dogs. This risk is highest in fragmented or edge habitats near human activity. Protecting areas where pure dingoes still thrive is important. However, management must be based on broad, verifiable and current population and genetic evidence. We urgently need systematic population and genetic surveys across NSW

National Parks to map where pure populations remain, where mixed animals are more common, and how these patterns are changing. Public maps, transparent data and regular reporting would allow clearer, widely accepted evidence-based decisions.

It is accepted that Dingoes act as top (Apex) predators. That they help control kangaroo numbers and keep smaller predators like foxes and cats in check (I would like to see research on this), which in-turn benefits many smaller native animals. And at the same time, dingoes and wild dogs can prey on some threatened native species and do cause real losses for farmers through attacks on livestock. The ecological interactions and effects of dingoes are not uniform across every ecosystem, season, prey base or land use. It is acknowledged that Dingoes and wild dogs may have positive *and* negative environmental impacts.

My experience and therefore long-held belief, is that Dingoes and wild dogs prey on what is available (and more-so easily available) at the time, that includes, native wildlife and birds, introduced animals (rabbits and hares etc) and feral pests (pigs and deer). Lambs and calves are often easy pickings with some dingoes more stand-offish of human interaction, unless hungry or accustomed eg in Tourist locations. Hungry and starving prey animals will do whatever is necessary, no matter the prey or situation. Installing NSW legislative protections for top prey animals is a risky policy and must be treated with caution. The complex range of issues presented by this specie is why the Federal Government declined to include them in the 2017 Finalised Priority Assessment List and is worth noting and understanding fully.

Current rules and the NSW NPWS plans for managing invasive animals already try to balance these issues. They focus on protecting park values while meeting legal responsibilities to both the Government and taxpayer, and neighbouring landholders. **There is a balance to be struck with protecting a prey specie such as the Dingo and not simultaneously protecting the feral animals it preys upon and the other existing and problematic feral animal populations too ie. pigs, foxes, feral cats etc.**

Comprehensive, park-by-park population and genetic mapping does not currently exist. Ad hoc sampling during control operations provides snapshots but not systematic baseline data or trend monitoring.

The risks and impacts of protecting an animal like the Dingo in National Parks varies greatly between locations and population make-up. A simple one-size-fits-all, “protect the dingo” approach that ignores these real complexities, the full range of invasive pest animals in parks, impacts on other threatened wildlife, or the practical needs of neighbouring farms will likely only make problems worse. It risks reduced community support for parks, more conflict with farmers, and poorer overall results for native plants and animals.

3. Ecological Role, Impacts on Biodiversity and Farming, Human-Wildlife Conflict, and Challenges with Invasive Animals (TOR c; Points 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9)

Dingoes should still play an important role as top predators in today’s Australian landscapes. They prey on kangaroo and wallabies, smaller animals and birds and in some areas must go some way in keeping pests and feral animals in check ie. rabbits, hares, pigs, deer etc. This chain reaction through the ecosystem can benefit many smaller native mammals, birds and reptiles.

However, with growing National Parks, associated boundaries to working properties and associated changes to fuel loads and fire patterns, roads, fencing and introduced species etc. In these ever-changing environments, dingoes and wild dogs also actively prey on livestock and ultimately prey on threatened native species as well. Under NSW law, predation and interbreeding by feral dogs is listed as a Key Threatening Process. It specifically affects species including the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus* — Vulnerable), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus* — Vulnerable), Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus obesulus* — Endangered), Eastern Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus wallicus* — Vulnerable), Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris* — Endangered) and Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis* — Critically Endangered). Many other threatened species profiles on the NSW government’s BioNet database also list predation by feral dogs as a threat, which to me, must include wild dogs and dingoes.

Past human actions have sometimes disrupted normal predator relationships with unexpected results. Eg. changes in kangaroo numbers in some areas. When top predators are reduced, smaller predators like foxes and cats can increase and put more pressure on small native animals. On the other hand, if dingo or mixed populations grow unchecked in some reserves, they can increase pressure on vulnerable ground-dwelling wildlife and cause more livestock damages and losses on neighbouring properties. Balance is key, and it would be near impossible to

achieve balance with a one-size-fits-all approach across diverse landscapes and populations.

The main human-wildlife conflicts involve livestock predation, which creates direct financial costs and stress for farming families. The welfare of maimed and injured livestock must be acknowledged. Conservation approaches that limit effective management of all problem animals or fail to support neighbouring landholders can increase resentment, lead to unauthorised control, and damage community support for National Parks. This ultimately weakens long-term conservation outcomes.

Parks face major challenges from several invasive animals: pigs (which damage soil and spread disease), goats and deer (which overgraze and cause erosion), foxes and cats (which prey on small native animals), rabbits, and wild dogs themselves. The 2025 NPWS Feral Animal Management Strategy notes that more than 350 native species, populations and ecological communities are threatened by invasive animal activity. Managing all these threats while also aiming to conserve dingoes creates practical tensions, because many control tools (such as 1080 baiting) affect all dogs, foxes, cats and even pigs. Unfortunately, current exploding numbers of invasive animals do not allow us the luxury of only using slow, individually applied "guaranteed humane" methods across entire landscapes. Unlike brumby populations that can effectively be trapped and rehomed, most feral pigs, dogs, cats and foxes require efficient, landscape-scale tools. We must use the best available methods, follow professional standards, and keep improving animal welfare outcomes — but some *practical trade-offs are unavoidable if we want to protect biodiversity at scale*.

Government decisions must follow a clear priority: overall protection of biodiversity under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. We cannot elevate one species above others when there are real conflicts. Where predation by dingoes or wild dogs threatens listed species and directly impacts working farms, it must be addressed as part of broader invasive animal management.

4. Cultural Significance and Value to Australians (TOR d; Point 6)

Dingoes are a recognised and revered native animal by many Australians. Much like, Koala's, Kangaroos, Echindas and Platypus. Dingoes (and many other native animals) hold deep cultural importance for many Indigenous communities — as totems, figures in Dreamtime stories, hunters and companions. Indigenous

knowledge about dingo behaviour, seasonal patterns and ecology is rich and place-based. Including this knowledge and supporting Indigenous leadership in monitoring and management strengthens both conservation and cultural outcomes.

For all Australians, the dingo is a well-known native canid and part of our shared natural heritage, more historically prominent in some locations over others. Its role as a top predator naturally contributes to ecosystem health and can also simultaneously induce negative impacts. There are also tourism and educational values that coexist, alongside the practical management challenges on farming land and this may be more so with increased human interaction in tourist locations. Simultaneously recognising both the cultural importance and the practical realities is vital to avoid dangerously simplistic stories and therefore policy reform.

5. Current Rules, Policies and the Case for Evidence-Based Improvement (TOR b, e; Point 1)

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, wild canids (including dingoes and wild dogs/animals with mixed ancestry) are priority invasive species. NPWS has a legal duty to manage their impacts on park values and on neighbouring land. The NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2022–2027 and the 2025 Feral Animal Management Strategy already promote risk-based approaches and collaboration with neighbours and community groups. These are positive foundations.

Accurate population and genetic mapping, open decision-making, and stronger communication and partnerships with neighbours and communities are needed.

Over many decades, the research of Dr Peter J.S. Fleming has provided some of the most detailed and practical understandings of dingo and wild dog ecology, behaviour, and management in Australia. Working primarily through the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Fleming's long-term studies have consistently shown that effective management requires a clear understanding of how these animals use the landscape, interact with livestock and native wildlife, and respond to different control methods. His work highlights several important lessons: that dingoes and wild dogs move freely across National Park boundaries and private land, meaning isolated park management is rarely sufficient; that both the ecological role and the impacts of these animals must be considered together rather than in isolation; and that successful outcomes depend on coordinated, landscape-scale approaches that involve landholders, government agencies, and researchers. Fleming's research also demonstrates the value of evidence-based

decision-making over ideological positions, showing that neither blanket protection nor indiscriminate control delivers the best results for either farming communities or biodiversity. His findings strongly support the need for management strategies that are adaptive, collaborative, and grounded in real-world ecological and agricultural realities.

The current frameworks already contain many of the right principles. The main gaps are in applying the latest population and genetic information, implementation detail and priorities, filling data gaps, and genuinely involving local communities in management planning and program decision-making and delivery.

Recommendation priority: That the Inquiry committee invite Dr Peter J.S. Fleming to provide his experience and evidence to an Inquiry hearing.

6. Partnership with Local Communities and neighbours (TOR f; Point 10)

Any plan for dingoes in National Parks must be developed and carried out in real partnership with all local communities and groups and neighbouring farmers. These are the people who have direct ecosystem knowledge, see daily changes, carry the costs of conflict and negative outcomes, and hold irreplaceable local and cultural knowledge. Top-down approaches that ignore on-ground realities are often impractical, ineffective and ultimately create resistance and fail. Successful examples already exist in Indigenous ranger programs and cross-tenure invasive animal groups. These should be expanded and properly supported.

Recommendation priority: I urge the Inquiry to seek evidence from programs already implemented in other States that can provide lessons for NSW to both harness and to avoid. Eg. Fraser Island 2001 plan (K'Gari - 2013 plan).

The experience of dingo management on Fraser Island (K'gari) in Queensland offers several important lessons for New South Wales from a surface level review.

These lessons show that balance is key, neither total protection nor heavy lethal control is a complete solution. The most effective approaches combine:

- Strong prevention (education + enforcement)
- Targeted, evidence-based intervention when needed
- Genuine partnership with all local communities
- Ongoing research and monitoring (including genetics)

Balanced, landscape-scale, partnership-focused conservation initiatives need to be developed, while maintaining transparent and current population and genetic datasets where the public can clearly see and monitor the outcomes as they occur. In depth consideration of these lessons should serve as a warning and highlight ways to avoid disastrous outcomes, such as loss of human life and frequent Dingo attacks, that have been seen on Fraser Island (K'Gari).

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

Before any consideration is given or any policy is developed and proposed to protect the dingo species in NSW National Parks, this submission insists that comprehensive baseline population numbers of dingoes that are robust, verifiable and publicly available must first be established. We MUST know where we are at, before we take any further steps. Proceeding without this critical first step risks basing decisions on incomplete or assumed data, with potential unintended consequences for biodiversity, other threatened species, neighbouring farming communities and long-term public confidence in conservation. With clear, transparent baseline population data secured, the practical recommendations that follow can then be advanced with confidence, precision and genuine balance between ecological protection and productive land use.

Trying to conserve or protect dingoes in National Parks without carefully considering population and genetic realities, the fact that dingoes and domestic and wild dogs have interbred in the past, the full range of invasive animal threats and impacts, impacts on other threatened species, and the legitimate needs of neighbouring graziers and farmers carries real risks. Such an approach could speed up genetic mixing in vulnerable populations, harm other native species, increase the prevalence of other invasive pest species eg. pigs, foxes, feral cats, increase livestock losses (and associated costs and loss of income) and hardship for rural families, and reduce overall community support for conservation. **Farming and biodiversity protection are not opposites - both are vital to Australia's future. Healthy National Parks and resilient rural communities together sustain the landscapes, food production, economies and culture we all value**.

Protecting dingoes in NSW national parks without adequate cross-boundary control transfers substantial costs, risks and animal suffering directly onto neighbouring farmers and graziers. Wild dog attacks, including those by dingoes and cross-breds, cause far more than market-value livestock losses. Attacks are

often violent and prolonged, resulting in torn flesh, disembowelment, severed tendons, shock, infection, miscarriages and extended suffering before discovery or euthanasia. Livestock that survive experience stress, reduced condition and lower productivity.

Farmers incur additional direct costs for fencing, baiting, trapping, surveillance equipment and countless hours of unpaid labour patrolling at night and checking stock. Predator pressure forces enterprise changes, such as abandoning sheep or goat production for less suitable options, reducing farm profitability, employment, local processing and land value.

The human cost is severe. Farmers and families endure anger, helplessness, sleep deprivation, family stress, fear during lambing and calving, and loss of confidence in government. This submission stresses that the government cannot increase or inadequately manage predator populations on public land while requiring private landowners to absorb the resulting livestock deaths, control burdens and psychological trauma. It calls for equal application of the General Biosecurity Duty, impact-based management, independent assessments before policy changes, and a compensation framework where government decisions materially increase losses. Conservation, it argues, must not become cost-shifting onto farmers who already meet extensive legal obligations on their own land.

I propose the following recommendations to be based on transparent and publicly available data and evidence, designed and delivered in partnership with locals, mutually beneficial, practically achievable, economically sensible and actively aiming to achieve long-term sensible and balanced biodiversity outcomes.

These recommendations work with caution and aim to avoid top-down, high-risk protective only measures or at worst a disaster like the Fraser Island (K'gari) dingo management crisis, where the lack of a sensible and balanced management plan allowed protective policies to produce habituated and dangerously bold dingoes that fatally attacked a nine-year-old boy in 2001, triggering reactive mass culling that divided communities, damaged the conservation credibility, and has created years of ongoing conflict, high-risk dingo attacks on humans, including the death of Canadian backpacker in January this year, instead of a sustainable coexistence.

Recommendations:

1. Establish comprehensive and publicly available baseline dingo population data as the absolute prerequisite before any protection policy is considered or developed: Comprehensive baseline population numbers of dingoes must be urgently established across all NSW National Parks through systematic, multi-method surveys (including direct field techniques, genetic analysis, camera monitoring and community-driven reporting). All resulting data must be independently reviewed where appropriate and made fully transparent and publicly available. No consideration should be given, and no policy should be developed or proposed, to protect the dingo species until this baseline is complete. We MUST know where we are at, before we take any further steps. This foundational dataset will provide the essential evidence base for all future decisions on dingo management and protection.
2. Build genuine landscape-scale planning across property boundaries through formal partnerships with Local Land Services, neighbouring landholders, local communities and groups and scientists. Develop practical regional management plans for wild dogs simultaneously with other invasive animals, together.
3. Give practical support to farmers: consider effective options for boundary control, most importantly if specific National Parks are to work towards fully protecting Dingoes and provide rapid response to problem animals, clear communication about park management particularly of other feral animal species. Consider the need for sensible compensation to landowners (that is proportionate and pro-rated) where the most sensible option to protect their livestock is constructing exclusion fencing (at their own cost) on their boundaries with National parks and Dingo protection areas.
4. Include ongoing specific risk assessments and monitoring for threatened species: where predation by dingoes or wild dogs is identified as a threat (under the Key Threatening Process listing or BioNet profiles), address it as part of overall invasive animal control. Apply a clear priority on overall biodiversity outcomes.
5. Speed up research and adoption of better-targeted and more humane control methods (for example improved baits and smarter delivery systems, permissible and effecting hunting models and time-frames in National Parks), with independent welfare standards and ongoing monitoring and improvement. Recognise practical limits and trade-offs with landscape-scale measures, while committing to reducing suffering as much as possible.

6. Formally seek and include all local Indigenous and cultural leadership and knowledge in dingo history and research, monitoring and management, in line with cultural importance and the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. Acknowledge that a one-size fits all approach to this is very likely unrealistic.
7. Improve public information and transparency on current population figures and genetic evidence, the role of dingoes across diverse landscapes eg. arid deserts to lush rainforest areas and tourist prone areas and both the positive and negative impacts dingoes have on those ecosystems, the difference between pure dingoes and problem wild dogs and cross-breds, and the shared responsibility across all land tenures.
8. Prioritise research on: how animals with different levels of dingo ancestry function ecologically; the social and economic effects and impacts of different management approaches; and how other pressures interact with these issues.
9. Schedule an ongoing and routine review of this Inquiry's findings and any associated recommendations with results and outcomes as they occur.

These recommendations are practical and evidence-based. They support genuine stewardship of the landscapes and ecosystems we have today — landscapes that include both National Parks and working pastoral properties. They honour the Inquiry's Terms of Reference while recognising that the health of our parks, flora and fauna and the viability of neighbouring farming communities are connected responsibilities we hold for current and future generations.

Key References (selected)

- Cairns, K. M., Crowther, M. S., Parker, H. G., Ostrander, E. A., & Letnic, M. (2023). Genome-wide variant analyses reveal new patterns of admixture and population structure in Australian dingoes. *Molecular Ecology*, 32(15), 4133–4150. https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.16998 (detailed sampling data available via Dryad: https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.vq83bk3ww)
- NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2009). Final Determination on Predation and Hybridisation by Feral Dogs as a Key Threatening Process.
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (2025). Feral Animal Management Strategy.
- Department of Primary Industries NSW (2022). NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2022–2027.
- Research by Letnic and colleagues on dingoes and ecosystem processes.

This submission is offered in a constructive spirit and with an appreciation and respect for both the natural environment and the farming communities that live alongside it. I am available to appear before the Committee if requested.