

**Submission
No 336**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I am writing as both a concerned member of the community and a marine and environmental scientist. The issue of dingo culling in New South Wales National Parks (NSWNP) is not only a local concern, but one that reflects a broader disconnect between current policy and well-established ecological science.

This submission is not to define the role of Dingoes within the broader ecosystems of Australia, as clear and well developed science clearly identify that as apex terrestrial predators they play a critical role in maintaining ecosystem balance (Cairns et al., 2017).

When apex predators like dingoes are removed, ecosystems become destabilised. This can trigger trophic cascades, leading to increases in invasive species, overgrazing, vegetation decline, and greater pressure on threatened native wildlife. These outcomes are well documented and directly contradict the goals of biodiversity conservation within National Parks(NP).

The issues I would primarily like to address is the lack there of funding and effort allocated towards research and development into non-lethal coexistence strategies for agricultural properties surrounding National Parks. Further to this why the current management of dingoes in NP is largely focused on agricultural protection not biodiversity outcomes, a contradiction to what the public would believe to be the goals within NP as a whole. Why is it that many cultural custodians report feeling excluded from the conversation around Dingoes and the management of their Country? Furthermore and foremost the welfare concerns of 1080 baiting.

There is a strong scientific consensus that dingoes should be recognised and managed as a native species, not as pests. A paper from Dr. Kylie M Cairns identifies that Dingoes are genetically distinct from domestic dog culling disrupts stable pack structures, which can increase breeding rates and the likelihood of hybridisation.