

**Submission
No 347**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Date Received: 15 July 2026

Animal Welfare Committee

Dingoes in national parks in New South Wales - Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge my submission to this Inquiry.



Sentience and killing methods

Dingoes are highly intelligent, sentient beings. They are social animals who experience pain, fear, and distress. They are Australia's only terrestrial apex predator.

And yet they are also the only native mammals specifically exempt from protection under the **NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act**.

So their killing is widespread, relentless, and cruel. Methods include traps, shooting, and 1080 poison --

Experts have warned that the NSW Government's continued use of 1080 poison could wipe out dingoes entirely.

Please take a moment to view:

1 1080 poison

"The time between ingestion and death is [highly variable](#). It can take anywhere between 30 minutes and 72 hours from the time of ingestion. During this time, it causes immeasurable suffering to its victims before they inevitably die.

[Symptoms](#) of 1080 poisoning include frenzied behaviour, anxiety, hypersensitivity, vomiting, screaming, shaking, uncontrollable urinating and defecating, convulsions, seizures, difficulty

breathing, coma and death.

On the basis of the suffering it causes, a study published by an RSPCA Australia scientist in the Animal Welfare journal concluded that 1080 “should not be considered a humane poison”.

- Defend The Wild

Please view:

VIDEO: Two dogs dying from 1080 poisoning (Credit: news.com.au)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgTlc3LoKC4
--	---

2 Dingo caught in a steel-trap. Please view: <https://vimeo.com/770312423>





3 Shot



Healthy ecosystems

After two centuries of persecution by agricultural interests, Australia's iconic dingo is gaining increasing recognition as an ecological saviour within our imperilled environment.

Vast conservation areas are blanketed with 1080 poison baits specifically targeting dingoes.

Ecosystem Biologist and Dingo expert Dr. Daniel Hunter says this is despite the vital ecological role dingoes play as Australia's largest land predator. Dingoes' presence helps regulate large herbivore populations, reducing grazing pressure on native vegetation, while also suppressing—and in some circumstances eliminating—introduced species such as foxes, cats, goats, and pigs.

Cultural significance

Like many Cultural Custodians across New South Wales, dingoes are a culturally significant species, e.g.

- For Ngarigo Cultural Custodian Aunty Gail Neuss, the killing of dingoes on Country represents a deep cultural pain.
- For Ngarigo woman, Gayon News: "Dingoes carry our knowledge." "Something so spiritual for me and my family."

Coexistence

People and dingoes have shared landscapes for thousands of years. There are practical ways to reduce conflict without widespread lethal control, e.g.

- 1 Incorporate indigenous knowledge and leadership into dingo conservation and management.
- 2 Governments to assist landholders to coexist with dingoes while protecting livelihoods and biodiversity.

Please view this brief, and very informative video:



- https://www.facebook.com/reel/166862422773463/?s=fb_shorts_profile&stack_idx=0

- Shot by Daniel Hunter and Ben Cunningham
- Edit, sound design, colour grade and animation by Emily Vines
- Shoot assistance with thanks to Melissa Andersen
- Directed by Alix Livingstone, Renae Charalambous & Sonya Grant

The treatment of our dingoes is not 'wildlife management'. It is brutal, draconian, barbaric, and

unscientific slaughter and carnage.

This is a critical moment in our history to right the shameful wrongs. I strongly call on the NSW Government to urgently legislate policy changes that will:

- 1 End dingo killing
 - 2 Establish full legislative protection for, and coexistence with, dingoes. Protect their ecological function and support biodiversity conservation.
 - 3 Ensure greater involvement of Cultural Custodians - Incorporate indigenous knowledge and leadership into dingo conservation and management.
 - 4 Provide financial support and extension of services for landholders surrounding National Parks to implement non-lethal coexistence strategies, ensuring their interests are protected and dingoes can be maintained in the environment
 - 5 Enable dingoes to be rescued and rehabilitated, and to enable them to be directly released into their habitat.
- NO EXEMPTIONS!

My sincere thanks to the Hon. Emma Hurst for securing this Inquiry, and the Hon. Penny Sharpe for listening to the community's deep concerns about the treatment of dingoes in NSW.

Yours faithfully,

Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Sources:

- 1 Animal Justice Party NSW
- 2 Defend the Wild
- 3 Dingo Culture
- 4 Humane World for Animals