

**Submission
No 338**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I am a NSW resident writing to express my belief that dingoes should be protected in national parks in NSW. Not only are the processes of baiting, trapping and shooting dingoes inhumane and unethical, they are unnecessary and not in keeping with the role of national parks in protecting biodiversity.

The dingo is legally and scientifically considered a native animal (1), and its ecological role as an apex predator and keystone species is well established. Dingoes control herbivore populations and play a role in suppressing foxes and feral cats, two of the largest threats to the conservation of our small native mammals, hence benefiting many of our threatened species (2, 3). I do not believe that the killing of a native animal important in the healthy functioning of ecosystems is in line with community expectations for national parks which are supposed to be places where nature is protected and celebrated.

I understand that there can be concern from farmers regarding the potential for their livestock to be predated. However, any response to this also needs to consider biodiversity conservation, the welfare of the dingoes and evidence-based practices. In some cases, lethal control of dingoes has been associated with no difference or an increase in livestock predation (4, 5). Non-lethal methods, such as livestock guardian animals, have been demonstrated to be highly effective at reducing or eliminating predation on livestock when used correctly, with one study finding that livestock guardian dogs eliminated predation in 65.7% and reduced it in 30.2% of cases (6). Other non-lethal techniques, such as fladry, have also been shown to be effective in similar species such as wolves in other countries. Therefore, we should be focusing on educating farmers and supporting them to implement these non-lethal techniques effectively and conducting more research into humane, non-lethal alternatives, including their effectiveness in different enterprises at different scales and ways to maximise their effectiveness.

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