

**Submission
No 339**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Introduction

My submission supports having stronger protection for dingoes in our New South Wales National Parks. As the largest terrestrial carnivore on the Australian mainland, the dingo functions as an apex predator, a role that shapes the entire ecosystem. The dingo has been here for thousands of years and should receive full protection within these areas rather than be exempt from protection and subjected to ongoing lethal pest control measures in National Parks in NSW.

Federal Recognition of the Dingo as a Native Species

Under Section 528 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), the dingo is recognised as a native species having being present in Australia before 1400 AD. This should impose a responsibility to protect these animals in National Parks whose stated aim is for the conservation of native biodiversity. Current lethal control practices both undermine the primary purpose of our National Parks and contradicts the federal recognition of the dingo as a native Australian species.

Lethal control methods contradict the Role of National Parks

The use of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) poison baiting (ground and aerial) inside National Parks is an abomination and causes unnecessary suffering to these and other sentient animals. When considering the damage this poison does and large number of 'non target' native animals and birds that are killed indiscriminately, why 1080 is still being used in a National Park is incredulous. For dingoes, lethal control by poisoning, trapping and shooting is often ineffective in the long term, disrupts dingo family structures while threatening the genetic purity and the long term viability of dingo populations .. and should have no place in our National Parks.

First Nations involvement in decision making and management

For many First Nations peoples, dingoes hold deep cultural significance and are connected to Country, kinship systems, stories and cultural responsibilities. Decisions about dingo management should respect and incorporate First Nations knowledge, values, traditions and leadership.

Evidence of Benefits from Mature Dingo Populations

- Promote biodiversity through trophic cascades.
- Contribute to healthier, more balanced ecosystems.
- Control overabundant herbivores such as kangaroos and goats.
- Suppress feral cats and foxes.

Recommendations

- Align NSW law with federal recognition by granting dingoes the full protection they are eligible for as a native animal species in Australia by including dingoes explicitly in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.
- Prohibit lethal control methods, especially 1080 baiting within National Parks.
- Traditional Owners should have a meaningful role in shaping the management and conservation of dingos.
- Develop dedicated dingo conservation and monitoring programs.
- Prioritise non-lethal coexistence strategies for adjacent landholders.

Time for human beings to try being human for a change and respecting the right to life for dingoes and the wild creatures in our National Parks.

Thank you for considering this submission.

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