

**Submission
No 367**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Dingoes are Australia's only native canid and are recognised as an important apex predator and keystone species.

Dingoes regulate populations of kangaroos and wallabies, reducing grazing pressure on landscapes.

Dingoes eradicate introduced goats, reducing pressure on vegetation.

Dingoes suppress, and in some cases eradicate, foxes through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.

Dingoes suppress introduced cats through territorial competition and predation easing pressure on smaller native wildlife.

Research suggests that stable dingo populations may suppress fox populations more effectively than poison baiting programs alone.

Dingoes also contribute to the suppression of pigs, reducing pressure on landscapes.

The presence of dingoes influences the behaviour and movement of herbivores and other animals, reducing pressure on vegetation communities.

The removal of apex predators can destabilise ecosystems, contributing to vegetation decline, habitat degradation and increased pressure on threatened species.

Dingoes hold deep cultural significance for many Cultural Custodians across New South Wales and the wider continent.

Dingoes are connected to stories, dance, art, lore, kinship systems and cultural responsibilities to Country.

Many Cultural Custodians consider dingoes to be protectors, teachers and part of healthy Country.

The 2023 First Nations Dingo Forum brought together 100 Traditional Owners from 20 nations across Australia and led to the development of the National First Nations Dingo Declaration.

The declaration calls for a new approach centred around "Caring for Dingoes on Country" and greater involvement of Cultural Custodians in dingo management.

Oral histories and archaeological research show that Cultural Custodians buried companion dingoes, with evidence that these animals were given intentional burials consistent with ancestral or ceremonial practices.