

**INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the lethal control—including baiting, trapping, and shooting—of the Australian dingo. Dingoes are a unique, native Australian species and an essential part of our natural heritage. I urge the government to implement humane, non-lethal management strategies:

Rationale:

1. Ecological Importance

Dingoes are a vital top-order apex predator and keystone species. Research shows that dingoes help maintain healthy ecosystems by regulating populations of herbivores (such as kangaroos) and suppressing introduced predators like foxes and feral cats. Removing dingoes disrupts this delicate balance, leading to overgrazing and the decline of smaller native wildlife.

2. Flawed Classification and Terminology: The current practice of labeling dingoes as "wild dogs" is scientifically inaccurate and used to justify indiscriminate culling. Modern genomic testing has proven that the vast majority of wild canids in Australia are either pure dingoes or high-content dingo hybrids.

3. Cultural Significance: Dingoes hold immense cultural, spiritual, and kinship significance for First Nations communities. Lethal control programs frequently disregard Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty.

4. The Need for Humane, Evidence-Based Management: Lethal control methods—such as the use of 1080 poison—are cruel, indiscriminate, and cause prolonged suffering to native wildlife. Furthermore, culling destabilizes dingo pack structures, which can actually increase hybridisation and exacerbate local conflicts.

Recommendations:

- * Support Traditional Owners as decision-makers and adopt management practices aligned with the National First Nations Dingo Declaration.

- * Classify the dingo as a protected native mammal rather than an unprotected pest or "wild dog".

- * Invest in non-lethal coexistence measures and involve Traditional Owners in dingo management decisions.