

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Love Rescue Collaborate

Date Received: 21 July 2026

Dingoes in national parks New South Wales Inquiry Submission

INTRODUCTION

As a resident in New South Wales, I have been volunteering with animal rescues for over two decades. This is predominantly across Sydney with companion animals, and assisting wildlife carers. While I am not an expert with these animals, there are **significant concerns about the prescribed methods for dingo management ways and poor / cruel treatments for dingoes in our national and state parks** and on private properties.

It is strongly recommended that now, in 2026, we need to be providing humane methods and care, based on the latest scientific evidence from experts integrated with First Nations / Aboriginal local expertise and respect for cultural significance. Our national and state native parks need to be more than for human entertainment. These precious spaces and environments should firstly be “arks” for our native animals.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOCUS AREAS

TOR (a) the genetic status of dingoes, the distinction between dingoes and dogs and recent research into the genetic profile of NSW dingoes

It is a significant concern that there are misunderstandings in identifying a dingo versus a domestic dog, and complexities with wild-dogs and cross breeds.

I am not an expert in this area, yet I see major misunderstandings, very often driven with highly charged (hate) negative emotions in declaring animals a pest for mainly businesses, eg agriculture / farming / livestock. Without clear guidance, and when on remote properties or in parks, there is significant risk of cruelty to dingoes and cross breeds.

“Dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) are believed to have descended from domesticated dogs brought to Australia by seafarers approximately 4,000 years ago”, while some remained with humans, since then many of “these dogs became feral, adapting to Australia’s unique ecosystems” and “possess characteristics that distinguish them from domestic dogs, including a leaner build, longer legs, and a more pronounced muzzle.”

<https://theswagstore.com.au/the-connection-between-dingoes-and-aboriginal-traditions/>

If the above explanation was submitted on social media, there would be a “beat up” that the dingoes were just Asian dogs or had bred too often with a range of domestic dogs abandoned by farmers/ private property owners.

Poisoning, trapping, shooting as lethal control methods that are “allowed” for pest animals are likely to cause cruelty incidents. It is highly likely that human behaviours see earning money for businesses as much more important than ethical animal welfare.

Our native animals deserve protection not just in native parks.

It is strongly recommended that genetic identification for dingoes is improved, with clear, concise definitions and terms, and rolled out across the state with forms of education.

TOR (b) the legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks governing the management of dingoes in New South Wales in national parks

It is a significant concern that the term “wild dog” appears used by members of the public in a variety of ways, confusing dingoes with cross breeds and domestic dogs where behaviours are aggressive when abandoned in a range of environments, where the dogs are left to survive on their own. It appears that many of the public are confused, and certainly I am not able to easily draw on a simple single source of truth from the governments.

It is recognised that dingoes are significantly hated by private land owners “the dingo has suffered... coming into conflict with graziers, and becoming a convenient scapegoat for profit losses... where the fear of what may be possible is more real than what does, or is likely to occur”.

Meanwhile, “many studies are finding a case for the re-introduction of the dingo into previously occupied habitat ranges, in order to return some balance to environmentally degraded areas, as a result of unregulated and out-dated farming practices”.

It is recognised dingoes are challenged for survival with “ongoing cultural persecution via bounty hunts, trapping and 1080 baiting” and “are currently considered *threatened* by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)”. <https://dingofoundation.org/>

It is a significant concern that dingoes as a native animal may have lethal controls applied which imply forms of cruelty eg poisoning or unprofessional/ armature shooting and trapping on remote private properties where monitoring is not possible.

It is recommended that the exemption for dingoes for protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, needs to be removed and replaced with effective and humane techniques for management, with supporting funded research for trusted decision making.

It is strongly recommended that underlying terms and definitions are developed, a framework constructed with up-to-date policies and protocols for identifying dingoes and management of their welfare.

TOR (c) the ecological role of dingoes in National Parks

I understand that dingoes are considered native animals and act as the apex predator. Therefore, their role will have an impact on other native animals in parks as do large native birds (eg hawks, powerful owls, ospreys) and many snakes such as large pythons feeding on medium sized native animals. Therefore, dingoes are just as an important part of the ecosystems.

The dingoes' "vital role helps regulate prey populations, control mesopredators (mid-sized predators), and indirectly benefit the plant life by preventing overgrazing" and "contribute to the balance and health of the ecosystem in ways that are often underestimated".

<https://npaqa.org.au/wildlife-feature-dingoes/>

It is also noted that dingoes may be predating on non-native animals such as goats, deer, pigs, foxes and feral cats which may become "wild" in native parks.

It is strongly recommended that dingoes need improved monitoring and localised research to better understand with evidence their role in the holistic ecosystems. Dingoes should not be culled, nor even removed without aligning the interrelationships between animals and the specific environment, and leave generic strategies behind that were likely based on archaic limited knowledge.

TOR (d) the cultural significance of dingoes for First Nations communities

The significance of dingoes to First Nations communities is acknowledged and should be respected.

"Aboriginal people across Australia hold the Dingo as sacred and culturally important, this perspective has never been considered in government and their policy making decisions" they are "a major stakeholder on environmental topics and should be consulted".

<https://www.dingoculture.com/about>

The National First Nations' Dingo Declaration is fully supported. Refer National First Nations Dingo Declaration <https://www.dingoculture.com/general-6>

Dingoes "have not only survived in diverse landscapes but have also become integral to the cultural narratives, spiritual beliefs, and hunting practices of various Aboriginal groups... the connection between dingoes and Aboriginal traditions reveals the depth of this relationship and highlights the animal's significance beyond its biological existence" and the valuable, practical knowledge and expertise of local Aboriginal people.

<https://theswagstore.com.au/the-connection-between-dingoes-and-aboriginal-traditions/>

The connections with First Nations / Aboriginal people need to be respected and incorporated as a priority in dingo management approaches, research, and planning.

TOR (e) the impact of current government policies and programs for the management of dingoes in National Parks

It is a significant concern that the use of 1080 is applied to dingoes. A vet has compared dying with 1080 to be electrocuted for two days. Ridiculous that it is broadly broadcast that natives are immune to 1080, yet 1080 is used on natives by our governments.

All poisoning and shooting practices should cease for dingoes as a population management practice.

Trapping needs to be completed by a trained and certified professionals and not by members of the public.

Haphazard cullings or removals of dingoes may terrorise family units, causing more aggressive behaviour to humans. These may also decrease the dingoes' predations of unwanted species in parks, and allow increases in natives beyond available food sustainability.

I understand that there are gaps and out-dated management approaches for dingoes.

There is a significant conflict of interest with management approaches focused on giving priority to businesses and their financial gains such as agriculture, livestock, etc.

It is strongly recommended that funding is provided for research and crafting of a new strategy, terms and definitions, overarching framework, policies and processes for humane and effective outcomes for dingoes and related biodiversity. All to be based on the most recent and relevant research and include integration of First Nations cultural connections.

TOR (f) dingo management including opportunities for incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and leadership in dingo conservation in national parks

It is a significant concern for First Nations people to be involved in all aspects of dingo management, including the development of new strategies, framework etc. It is strongly recommended that information gathering and published reports are necessary for all current dingo locations with relationships to local Aboriginal people.

It is strongly recommended these respected people should be local representatives and be able to develop customised requirements and obligations.

Local representatives should be trained as Rangers for ongoing daily monitoring across native parks, and related areas such as adjacent private properties such as agriculture/farms. Other roles include management, administration, and delivery of education for members of the public.

It is noted that a number of these aspects are included in the National First Nations Dingo Declaration that need to be implemented.

Benefits include: more relevant, aligned and applicable management, and more effective outcomes for dingoes and local people.

TOR (g) any other related matters

It is a significant concern that it appears many current land holders next to or near native parks are being impacted by dingoes roaming out of the parks. I do not agree with the private businesses being able to cull any native animals that cause an impact to their introduced animals.

It is strongly recommended that the current licenses and exemptions for culling/ destroying native animals should be reviewed and transformed to protect more native animals. It appears hypocritical to allow very large numbers of native animals to be destroyed by farmers / private land holders, when there is public outcry over invasive species such as foxes and feral cats.

I understand there is a range of methods for better protecting a business' animal assets, such as livestock guardian animals such as certain breeds of dogs and perhaps donkeys. Perhaps this might be an opportunity for "feral" donkeys to be relocated? For example:

van Bommel L, Johnson CN (2014) How guardian dogs protect livestock from predators: territorial enforcement by Maremma sheepdogs. Wildlife Research 41, 662-667. doi.org/10.1071/WR14190

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/22/kicks-like-a-mule-trained-donkeys-deployed-to-protect-sheep-from-wild-dogs-on-nsw-farm>

Donkeys protect livestock from wolves at Michigan cattle farm

<https://youtu.be/Gt6PUeDaSCs?si=jZLtJq3l Or-WSyg>

It is strongly recommended that a range of support services, education and assistance be provided to land holders/ private businesses to ensure their properties and animal assets have better protection avoiding harm to dingoes. These activities will need adequate and prompt funding.

It is critical that there is acceptance for co-existence rather than a private business animal asset being allocated priority over a native animal.

CONCLUSION

It is vital that the NSW government improve welfare management of dingoes especially in our parks, and on private properties. There appears a wealth of scientific evidence from experts that should be incorporated in a new policies, framework and practices, and further more recent research should be funded immediately. Lethal tactics need to be replaced with humane techniques for the best outcomes for dingoes and people.