

**Submission  
No 390**

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

**Name:** Mrs Mackenzie Cross

**Date Received:** 21 July 2026

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**To:** NSW Legislative Council, Animal Welfare Committee

**Submission regarding:** Dingoes in national parks in New South Wales

**Closing Date:** Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 11:59pm

I am making this submission as a New South Wales (NSW) resident who spends considerable time exploring and appreciating our state's national parks. I hold a Bachelor of Advanced Science, majoring in Zoology and Ecology, and have grave concern about the current management of dingoes in NSW and the broader implications on biodiversity.

Both personally and professionally, I hold a deep appreciation for the ecological role of dingoes in Australia's natural environment. Dingoes are Australia's only native canid and as a vital apex predator and keystone species, they perform several essential ecosystem functions, including the control of kangaroos and introduced species such as foxes, pigs and cats.

The removal of apex predators triggers top-down trophic cascades. Without dingoes to regulate lower trophic levels, ecosystems suffer from overgrazing, habitat degradation and compounding pressure on threatened species. Dingoes actively shape Australia's native ecosystems, and eliminating them undermines efforts to preserve biodiversity, which should be the primary goal of our national parks.

Current NSW legislation treats dingoes with an extraordinary level of contradiction: recognising their native heritage and ecological importance in theory, yet stripping them of protection in practice. Dingoes are the only native mammal specifically exempt from protections under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, an exemption that allows them to be trapped, poisoned and shot.

Data released under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) revealed that between 2020 and 2025, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) deployed more than 1.5 million 1080 poison baits targeting dingoes. Since 1080 is an indiscriminate poison, deploying it inside NPWS areas fundamentally conflicts with biodiversity conservation. Additionally, trapping should not be considered a more humane option, since trapped dingoes have been documented suffering prolonged pain, distress and exposure to the elements while unable to access food, water or shade/shelter for extended periods before being killed.

To bring NSW dingo management in line with scientific evidence and community standards, I urge the Committee to recommend the following reforms:

1. Amend the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 to formally classify dingoes as protected native fauna across all NPWS lands.
2. Immediately end the deployment of 1080 poison baiting, trapping, and lethal shooting of dingoes across all NPWS lands.
3. Redirect management resources toward research, development and implementation of non-lethal coexistence strategies (such as livestock guardian animals, fladry, smart fencing, or deterrents) for agricultural properties adjoining NPWS lands.
4. Restructure pest animal management strategies so that dingoes are managed according to their ecological function as apex predators rather than being classified as 'pest' animals under biosecurity frameworks.

The current approach to dingo management in NSW relies on outdated practices that harm native ecosystems and fail basic welfare standards. Reforming these policies to protect dingoes in our national parks will restore ecological balance, safeguard native wildlife, and align NSW with modern science.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Cross

BAdvSci (Earth Science, Zoology and Ecology)