

REVIEW OF THE VICTORIAN WILDLIFE ACT 1975

05 June 2021

Dear panel

It is no secret that Australia is in the clutches of a catastrophic ecological crisis, and as conditions continue to deteriorate, the threat of collapse advances at an alarming rate. Governments now have no choice but to execute mass annual cullings of predator and Kangaroo populations in a desperate attempt to prevent exponential population explosions, and consequent, imminent, ecological collapse.

I believe that we find ourselves in this precarious situation because ever since the colonisation of Australia **we have viewed the dingo as a pest and have failed to recognise its functional role and the long-term consequences of removing such an animal from the system. To put it bluntly, for whatever the reasoning, the dingo has been grossly underestimated, and the impact of this stubbornness is costing this country dearly. This attitude, in my opinion, was and still is Australia's gravest ecological error!**

If the truth be finally told, **THE DINGO IS NOT A DOG** as it qualifies in every respect as a **TOP ORDER TROPHIC REGULATOR**, thus placing it in an elite class of animal species, of which only a handful of animals on the planet qualify. Any ecologist will tell you that the removal of such an animal, once established in a system, would be a fatal mistake as it would trigger a **downwards trophic cascade** which would topple the system from the top. Such is the fate of Australia, and it is high time to take stock of the truth and deal with reality, as painful as it may be.

For how long **will we continue to ignore the fundamental importance of the dingo, and place ecological stability and the unique biodiversity of this great land in second position?**
For how long **are we going to compromise the ecology for the sake of the livestock industry, and at what price, and to what end?**
What will it take for Australia to learn that we have no choice but to face the truth lest we face disaster?

Governments and farmers have a shared invested interest, and both groups selfishly continue to evade the issue purely for financial reasons. Ironically, the age-old intention of dingo removal for the sake of livestock protection **has not improved livestock conditions but worsened them.** Removing the dingo, whose **functional role is to regulate the larger animals at the upper end of the food chain (a critical constituent to eco stability), has effectively allowed those animals to over-multiply and has thus inflicted a crippling blow to the mechanisms and stability of the food chain.** Today, foxes and cats have reached infestation levels due to lack of **natural dingo management**, resulting in an acceleration of widespread ecological destruction, and hence more livestock losses to the farmer. **If dingoes were to regain control**, predator numbers would begin to decrease, threatened animal, bird and plant species would begin to rejuvenate, ecological instability would gradually begin to regain its balance, and livestock losses would begin to decline. **With regards to the**

kangaroo over-population crisis, if dingoes were to regain control, kangaroo numbers would begin to decrease, threatened plant and insect species would begin to revive, and livestock grazing conditions would begin to improve. **So, in the framework of the bigger picture, not only has the plan to protect livestock failed, but it has put a spoke in the wheels of the food chain which has finally brought the system to its knees.** This needs to be acknowledged on a federal, industrial and social level, and the appropriate actions taken urgently.

To cut a long story short, **what is severely lacking is dingo understanding and recognition. If a true and comprehensive understanding of the dingo were to be unearthed,** it would no doubt lead to the logical conclusion that **dingo protection and the embracing of natural order** is the only effective, organic solution that **holds the potential to turn the failing system around and usher it back to its rightful place.** If the pros and cons were to be considered, the pros would out-weigh the cons by a million to one.

What I am advocating for is not overnight mandated dingo protection, but rather dingo recognition as a TOP ORDER TROPHIC REGULATOR, and government approved and funded trial zones, designed to explore these avenues and help build confidence in dingo capabilities for the sake of ecological stabilization, rejuvenation and wellbeing.

Interestingly the dingo and the wolf are classified as two separate species, Canis Dingo and Canis Lupus respectively, **yet they both share an almost identical ecological role.** Wolf protection and reintroduction in certain states of North America is proving to be an extremely effective means in the salvaging of struggling eco systems, especially those that have fallen into decline due to ongoing wolf persecution. The importance of wolf conservation is being recognised and is spreading around the world. **Australia has Her very own “wolf” which we must not undermine, but rather protect and come to respect.**

Truly, the dingo is a fascinating animal with incredible, high functioning capabilities that are vital for ecological sustainability. Most of the research has already been done by passionate and open-minded individuals and professionals, **who have recognised the importance of this animal and its essential wellbeing on Australian soil.** It is high time that this recognition penetrates the surface, and we begin to value the importance of Natural Order as a means of achieving mainland, and essentially global, ecological stability. A fundamental lesson modern day Australia needs to learn.

It is my hope that these words arouse a new and keen interest within you for the Dingo and for future prospects of dingo conservation, and ultimately, for the rejuvenation of the heartbeat of Australia.

Please note that I have also mailed a hard copy of a small booklet that I have written, **DAWN of a DINGO DAY**, to each of the panel members as a part of my submission for this cause. It strives to illuminate the ancient role of the dingo in contrast to historical and current political points of view.

I thank you all for your time and I wish you all the very best.