



## National First Nations' Dingo Declaration

Dingoes are known by many names across Australia:

*Binure, Buyubarra, Dwert Mooyel, Ganibarra, Jinabara/ Madla Yalpa, Mirragang, Ngalmu, Ngawa, Ngugum, Ngwangwal, Ootalkarra, Warrigal, Wartaji, Wabubarra, Wilkerr, Wetya, Wongari, and many others.*

The Dingo is deeply sacred to Australia's First Nations peoples. They are family.

Dingoes are a part of our individual and collective identity, important for men and women, and our totems, Dreaming, lore/law and customs. They are embedded in our spirit through Storytelling, a part of our creation, rituals, ceremonies, art, dances, and songs. We are one being, spiritually connected from the Dreamtime to eternity.

The Dingo is a cultural icon representing a vital connection to Country whose significance cannot be put into words. As Creator and Dreamtime Beings they formed the lands, the waterways, and constellations. They mapped our ancestral Songlines across this continent. The Dingo is essential to keep our storylines, custom and culture alive.

Dingoes remain deeply embedded in the daily lives of First Nations peoples as companions, hunting partners, protectors, and family members. They share our same experience of atrocities and journey of survival.

Dingoes are the Boss of Country. They belong in the landscape. Their presence in the ecosystem ensures natural systems remain in balance. This role is greatly under-appreciated. The direct and indirect effects of the Dingo on native and pest species are clear and apparent.

Dingoes are genetically, physically, and behaviourally different to domestic dogs, and must not be treated as such. If it looks and behaves like a Dingo, it is Australia's Dingo.

We do not support the use of the term 'wild dog'. This term diminishes the Dingo. It is a deliberate misrepresentation to justify killing. It disrespects and disregards culture.

Colonisation has and still impacts our relationship with the Dingo. Since European colonisation and introducing livestock, assumptions around Dingoes have led to them being cruelly targeted by trapping, shooting, poisoning, exclusion fencing, desexing, and bounty programs across Australia. These practices seek to eradicate the Dingo from Country, and are inhumane, ineffective, unnecessary, and have devastating consequences.

We do not, and have never, approved the killing of Dingoes. Killing Dingoes is killing family. We demand an immediate stop to this 'management' across Australia. Lethal control should never be an option.

We advocate for a different model: caring for Dingoes on Country. This model sees Dingo recognised in legislation as—a culturally significant and protected native species. This model must use traditional knowledge, and evidence-based practice, focusing on peaceful co-existence between Dingoes and all stakeholders. This brings together cultural and western knowledges.

We demand our rights to have our voice, and capacity to apply culture in all matters relating to the Dingo. We have the right as Traditional Custodians to be directly involved in decision-making in all legislation and management actions that impact Dingoes, across all levels of government.

In 2009, Australia endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), but has yet to honour its commitment. In defence of our inherent sovereign rights and the preservation of the Dingo, we the undersigned, invoke UNDRIP articles 25 and 26.

To honour and revitalise our ancient relationships with Dingoes, we, the undersigned, collectively welcome Dingoes back to our care as our Creator Beings, companions, and kin. By doing so, we seek to uphold custodial responsibilities to restore balance across the lands and waters. We exist in a symbiosis. When you remove Dingoes, Country gets sick, we get sick. A healthy Country is essential for spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing.

We assert the truth of this statement as the basis to restore our cultural obligations and rights in alignment with our lore/law and custom. These are intrinsically connected to the Dingo as kin.

As the undersigned individuals from our respective Nations, together with our allies across society, we are determined in walking together to make real the demands of this Declaration. We commit to empowering people to effectively uphold cultural and environmental obligations, and aspirations, of protecting the Dingo.