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**From:** Gary Dunnett  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Portfolio Committee 4  
**Subject:**

**Attachments:**

Hi Joseph,

Response as below

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) thanks the Committee for providing the opportunity to make a submission, appear before the committee and provide additional material in response to the attached supplementary question.

NPA's conclusion that the Great Koala National Park would generate significant employment and economic outcomes for the five Local Government Areas within which the proposed park would be established is largely based on detailed analysis by the Hunter Research Foundation, Centre of the University of Newcastle. A copy of their report is attached for the information of the Inquiry.

We interpret the Inquiry's supplementary question as relating to the employment levels that would be required for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to manage the 'day-to-day' operations of the Great Koala National Park. The University of Newcastle modelling (see summary tables on pp 53-54 of the report) models a variety of capital and operational requirements for the proposed park. The ongoing operation requirements are categorised as park management, koala habitat restoration, visitor management, bushwalking and mountain bike trail maintenance, visitor transport and the operation of the Koala Centre of Excellence. NPA recommends that the Inquiry seek detail on the derivation of the specific estimates for each of these items from the report authors at the Hunter Research Foundation.

NPA notes that these operational services are likely to be provided by a mixture of NPWS staff and contractual arrangements (eg, the transport service). In the broadest terms, NPA would expect that the day-to-day management of the 315,000 ha park will require in the order of 50 additional NPWS staff. This figure reflects the high level of visitation expected to be attracted by the new park. It excludes the significant ecological restoration that will be required during park establishment, which if conducted 'in house' might require an estimated additional 25 staff.

NPA's understanding and expectation is that the large majority of additional employment associated with the Great Koala National Park will amongst those offering cultural tourism, ecotourism, accomodation and supporting services to the new visitors who will be attracted to the region.

Regards

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