



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30 April 2012

A Parliamentary Committee will scrutinise the management of the State's public land and review the process and impact of converting Crown Land, State Forests or agricultural land into National Park estate.

The Committee will also examine land management practices by public authorities, including fire, weed and pest management. Land use models that provide for conservation outcomes which utilise principles of sustainable use will also be examined by the Committee.

The Committee will look at various case studies where Crown Land, State Forests and agricultural land has been converted into National Parks or other conservation areas, including River Red Gum State Forests in the Southern Riverina, native hardwood State Forests in northern NSW, Yanga station in the Balranald Shire, and Toorale Station in the Bourke Shire.

Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC said, "This Inquiry will thoroughly review how public and private land is acquired and converted into conservation land, and the effectiveness of public land management practices dealing with fire hazards, weeds and pests, and issues such as public access and land use."

"An important part of the Inquiry will be site visits and hearings in regional areas. In addition to the areas nominated in the terms of reference, the Committee is actively seeking submissions from other regional areas," Mr Brown said.

The Committee is keen to ensure the Inquiry engages with relevant individuals and groups in those communities affected by the transfer of land to National Parks and conservation areas, and encourages submissions from interested parties," Mr Brown said.

The Committee is currently seeking written submissions, with a closing date of 3 August 2012.

For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please visit the Committee's website – www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair Hon Robert Brown MLC, on 9230 2573