

**Submission  
No 455**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Ms Margaret Simpson

**Date received:** 15/08/2012

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15 AUG 2012

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The Director,  
NSW Legislative Council  
Standing Committee No. 5.

Dear Parliamentarians,

This is not a very 'hopeful' submission. We feel a certain pessimism; reflective of the Times. We came to live in Dorrigo in 1989 & joined the Southern Blue Mountains Field Naturalists Club & were enthusiastic supporters of their seed-collection and tree-planting / reclamation projects. Rufous Whistlers and other rare birds were periodic delights with their 'songs' in our garden. No longer! We participated in censuses of superb parrots & Bush Tucker projects. We now no longer sight these birds.

We would not criticise State Forests. Their management was wonderful given the challenge of a 10 year drought! When the National Parks were declared, we believed this was hopeful for species survival. The long history of preservation & conservation which distinguishes NATIONAL PARKS would protect & counter the pressures which are so 'short-term', and so unmindful of the natural inheritance we leave our children! National Parks have a far-reaching VISION - to conserve

unique ecosystems for posterity.

Pressures of population growth and a desire to exploit timber & grazing resources to the maximum will degrade the Murray Valley National Park and Murray Valley Regional Park and, as Naturalists, we believe should be resisted. Future generations must inherit a healthy environment. Let us bequeath to our grandchildren something unique and marvellous in our red gum forests.

We live in a consumerist age which has forgotten the fragile web of life. National Parks should be places where people experience and learn about Nature and where threatened species have a chance of survival. Recreational shooting is incompatible with the logic underlying National Parks. The Southern Riverina Field Naturalists and the Bushwalkers of U3A, Deniliquin Schedule trips to the red gum forests and it is anathema to us that shooters young and old will be hunting with guns in this peaceful environment. We are opposed to the proposal to permit recreational shooting and convinced it is unnecessary as there are more effective feral controls.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Simpson