

**Submission
No 50**

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

Name: Mr Brian Rich

Date received: 24/07/2012

I would like to introduce myself, Brian Rich, a 4th generation commercial apiarist, residing in Maryborough, Central Victoria, where I have lived all my life and operated a honey-producing business for 46 years.

I am writing to emphasise the importance to both the honey producing industry in Australia and myself, of maintaining access to Yanga Station for honey production.

My history of working in the Balranald area began in 1973 at Talpee Station, for primarily red gum, and to a lesser degree black box, honey production. Talpee, which I believe was originally a part of Yanga, was owned at the time by the Beer brothers from Kerang. Following auction, Mr Carr became the new owner. Mr Carr then sold Talpee to Yanga. Mr Alistar Cox was station manager and Mr Bes Murray overseer at this time.

Following this development I began positioning bee hives in other areas on Yanga, dependent upon the condition of the red gum in various locations throughout the property. I returned every alternate year, with the exception of the extreme drought years experienced throughout the area, arriving mid-November and departing early in the new year.

Apiarists are working within an industry which believes in maintaining and caring for our environment. I pride myself in having always upheld and maintained this attitude. I have worked in cooperation with many managers at Yanga and have without exception been treated with respect and trusted with keys and allowed access to bee sites. I believe I have demonstrated over many years a responsible approach whilst working in the area.

Red Gums are a prolific honey-yielding tree, and when budded well with favourable conditions, this eucalypt can account for half of my honey production over a single season. The Red Gum tree is highly prized for this high quality honey production and "bee-building" qualities.

Red Gum honey is eagerly sought by packing companies. Due to its palatable individual flavour and density, it is regarded an outstanding table honey.

It is of utmost importance to my industry and my own personal business that access to this area which I have been granted for a forty year period, be maintained. Such a location as this to produce a wonderful honey and support Australian industry must remain open to apiarists, currently and into the future.

Yours faithfully

Brian Rich