

**Submission  
No 156**

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

**Name:** Mr Paul Suter

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## Management of public land in New South Wales (Inquiry)

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, which focuses on only a few aspects of the inquiry:

### **RECREATIONAL HUNTING WITHIN NATIONAL PARKS**

I support the expansion of Game Council (GC) managed recreational hunting within National Parks as a means to reduce the number and impacts of feral animals. This hunting is done voluntarily at minimal cost to the public. I believe that recreational hunting is more humane and has less negative impacts on native wildlife than poisoning programs. It also promotes hunting as a valuable, worthy and healthy activity.

I believe that the GC system of recreational hunting management has successfully allowed safe and effective recreational hunting within State Forests. This model could and should easily be applied within National Parks.

However, I think that the following restrictions should be placed on recreational hunting within National Parks:

- National Parks that are close to metropolitan areas should not be opened to recreational hunting.
- No recreational hunting should be allowed on long weekends, public holidays or school holidays. These are peak usage times by the general public. Much of the anxiousness about perceived public risk could be avoided by preventing hunting on these dates. This will still allow recreational hunting for most days of the year.
- Very clear and explicit restrictions should be communicated to hunters regarding whether shooting is allowed on or near roads, walking and other tracks.
- Some form of enforcement will be required to ensure hunters “do the right thing”. GC staff should be responsible for policing the hunting within National Parks.
- Hunting should be only by foot - not from cars or other vehicles.
- Use of GPS with adequate mapping features should be mandated to ensure hunters only hunt within allowed areas. The current GPS-based mapping system used by GC is simple and effective.
- Hunting by minors (under 18) should only be allowed where under direct supervision by a licensed adult.
- Hunting should only be allowed during “daylight hours”. The current GC system seems appropriate – no spotlighting. Although this will reduce the effectiveness of feral animal control, it will improve perceived and actual safety for hunters and the general public.
- No hunting involving dogs should be allowed in National Parks. This includes “pig dog hunting”.
- Heavy penalties should be imposed for any harming of native animals with hunting equipment.

- There should be minimum calibre requirements to maximise the chance that feral animals will be taken humanely.
- Hunting within national parks should not be extended beyond feral animals. For example, duck hunting or other hunting of native animals should not be allowed within National parks.

### **OTHER CHANGES TO ALLOWABLE USES WITHIN NATIONAL PARKS**

Other than temporary location of beehives for the production of honey, I do not support any form of logging, grazing, forestry, or any type of mining activities within National Parks. Plenty of Australia is already available for these activities, which I think are incompatible with National Parks.

### **OTHER USES OF STATE FORESTS**

I think that no logs should be taken for the purpose of woodchipping. The few jobs that are supported by these very low value add activities are not worth the destruction to our native forests.

This objection also extends to logging for the purpose of producing timber as a fuel source for “waste to energy” generation projects.

However, offcuts and other wastes produced at mills during the production of useable timber should be put to the highest value reuse. Use of these timber offcuts from mills as alternate fuels should be encouraged.

Thanks and regards

Paul Suter