

**Submission  
No 338**

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

**Name:** Mr Peter Newman

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Submission to the NSW inquiry into public land management

29 August 2012

My name is Peter Newman and I am an adjacent landholder to our magnificent red gum forests, I have lived my whole life in and beside the forest (53 years) and have taken much pleasure from their beauty. I spent my youth hunting and fishing in them; exploring and boating in the flood waters. I have sandbagged during floods and fought many fires in them.

I am proud to say that many of the men who worked in these forests are my friends. These are honest hard working people who you can depend on; they have a great knowledge of these forests. These people are a varied bunch, the tough timber workers, the naturalists the bird watchers, the fishermen and women, the hunters, people just out for a drive or to grab some fire wood. Many of these people who are mainly locals have generations of experience and love these forests. Even those in the timber industry, who are seen as destroying the forest, sit down and talk to them. You will soon learn of their love for these forests.

I don't care much about what sign is on the gate, and there have been a few over the years, what I do care about is the future of these magnificent forests, the future for me, my children and my grandchildren and hopefully for many generations into the future. These are living growing forests, they need management, and they need care. Experts who visit from capital cities every now and then are not what they need, they need people who rely on them, they need people who will have to live with any implications that changes in management will bring.

I have commented before on the health of our small rural communities, we have enough trouble dealing with nature, droughts floods etc., we don't need government policy to destroy us as well,. A good gauge for a community's health is its footy club, Mathoura, known as the timbercutters, bottom of the ladder, Picola on the Victorian side, another timber town destroyed by this insane parks policy, one place above Mathoura, second from the bottom.

As a concerned lover of these magnificent forests I beg you to return them to the local communities, A management committee of the Bangerang, Industry and Shire, Fishers and conservationists, but the key is local, with generations of experience to protect and nurture these forests for future generations.

Your Sincerely Peter Newman