

**Submission  
No 484**

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

**Organisation:** Duffys Forest Residents Association Inc

**Name:** Ms Jenny Harris

**Date received:** 1/09/2012

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# **DUFFYS FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC**

**P.O. Box 567 TERREY HILLS NSW 2084**

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
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August 31, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

The Duffys Forest Residents Association was founded in 1962 and we have a long and successful history of preserving and maintaining the amenity of this area with our mission statement to protect the adjacent Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. DFRA has 65 member families many with many actively engaged in various community groups such as the National Parks and Wildlife bush regeneration programme, Warringah Council "Friends of the Bush" regeneration works and Stream watch and catchment protection programs.

We are most concerned about the terms of reference of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 and that this inquiry is being led by a member of the Shooters' Party of NSW. This Party is on record for lobbying the government to allow even more access to national parks for hunting.

DFRA is concerned that this inquiry will be used to halt the reservation of parks and to justify the degradation of the existing national park estate through grazing, logging, and high impact recreational activities. Members of the standing committee are not appropriately representative of those with experience in managing areas of biodiversity importance or of cultural values and the views of the majority of the committee are against the principles of protected areas.

The terms of reference are biased towards economic values and The terms of reference for the inquiry are biased in favour of economic interests, disregard the professionalism of the National Parks and Wildlife Service experts and do not adequately cover the importance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to provide resilience for our natural environment. The case studies chosen by the committee are new additions to the national park estate and do not provide examples of the long term benefits of national parks to local communities.

The management of national parks is undertaken by the skilled professional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and supported by a large number of community volunteers such as our members who take pride in these special areas. The NPWS has considerable expertise in feral animal control, invasive weed management and fire management.

Our conservation areas are important not only for biodiversity protection, but also for other critical ecosystem services such as fresh water catchment protection, and storing carbon in trees and soils. The landscapes, places and objects in national parks are significant for their Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values, yet such considerations are absent from the terms of reference of the inquiry.

At a recent meeting of our Association members expressed dismay that the NSW Government will now permit shooting in our National Parks under the guise of a conservation effort to reduce feral animals. We do not support shooting but encourage the committee to recommend the introduction of additional low impact recreational activities such as recreational horse riding and allowing dog on leash walking on the fire trails in the Parks. This would encourage greater use of the Park without detrimental impacts

We urge your committee to recommend that NSW honours their commitment to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment whereby the Australian Government and all State Governments agreed to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas and to manage these appropriately to protect their natural values.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Harris

Secretary

Duffys forest Residents Association