

**Submission
No 233**

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

Name: Ms Ann Evers

Date received: 19/08/2012

Submission to Management of Public Land In NSW Inquiry

Re: Mutawintji National Park

Mutawintji is a fragile National Park in western New South Wales that is of great cultural and natural significance. Located in the Byngano Ranges, it is significant both culturally and for its rare biodiversity. It is a rugged area dotted with life giving waterholes.

I have visited this National Park on a regular basis over the last 40 years. Unfortunately I have witnessed increasing damage and degradation. This appears to be getting worse due to the large number of goats and feral pigs in the area.

A recent visit to the park after 2 years of good rainfall raised alarm bells. I was expecting to see new young seedlings of Mulga and Wild Lime – Citrus glauca – just to name 2 species. In stead I saw much trampled ground and the existing old trees eaten as high as a goat can reach.

If serious action is not taken this area will fast become denuded and barren of life.

Firstly, I would like to question the methods of goat and pig eradication. Both were visible in large numbers on my last visit in August 2012. Do the contractors who are employed have a motivation to completely eradicate these pests or are they encouraged to leave sufficient numbers to maintain their own jobs? Do they sell the goats for their own profit?

Mutawintji used to make use of helicopters for pest eradication. Could this have been a better way to access goats and pigs in the many inaccessible parts of this very rugged park?

Secondly, I would like to know what sort of current assessment of the plants and wildlife is being kept. Is there an inventory of new plants that are germinating and reaching maturity? If so is this being made available to the public?

Thirdly, I am concerned that where young seedlings do manage to germinate that they do not receive sufficient protection from the ravages of feral animals to survive for very long. I have noticed that in some national parks such as Mungo, areas around rare and endangered species are fenced off to give young plants a chance to reach a height where they can survive above browsing reach.

Submitted by Ann Evers