

**Submission  
No 424**

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

**Name:** Mr Richard McKay

**Date received:** 17/08/2012

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14 August 2012

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee  
No 5, Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

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17 AUG 2012

GPSC's

Dear Director

**Red Gum NSW Parks/Forests**

I own a holiday house near Picnic Point, Mathoura which has been in our family for over 40 years. It is located in the Murray Valley National Park Moira Precinct.

Recently, even after so called consultation, this area has been elevated to "Park" status from the traditional "Forest."

The decision was made by the NSW Government with undue haste – clearly pandering to the Greens. Timber cutters, foresters and other interested parties who wanted the forest status preserved were totally ignored.

The report by Professor Brack – an expert in such matters was suppressed by the NSW government.

Industry in the area which has been built around sustainable harvest of timber has been decimated. Mathoura as a town is struggling to survive and this decision has a negative effect in many ways.

I believe regulated, sustainable harvest of timber should be re-instated which would provide much needed employment for the Murray Shire.

On a personal note, I am 67 years old and capable of using a chainsaw occasionally for a short time. Traditionally we have gone into the forest, collected a small amount of firewood, when it is used we go and get another small amount.

The present permit system, which is abysmally administered, provides for either one tonne, or perhaps 3 tonnes to be collected in a 30 day period from a specific area. I do not have the capacity to collect 3 tonnes or even 1 tonne in a session.

I am prepared to pay a permit fee to collect firewood in the area but would suggest an annual permit system whereby if we run out on a weekend, we can legally go and get a few pieces to enjoy some warmth and comfort in our home.

There is abundant fallen wood and remnants from logging in the area and residents cleaning up the debris on the forest floor has a minimal impact on the environment.

"Getting firewood" has been an enjoyable and learning activity for me, my children and now our grandchildren, assists in cleaning up the forest floor and should be encouraged by the guardians of our resources, not stupidly restricted as is the present status.

I urge the Committee to recommend returning the area to "Forest" and manage it accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Richard McKay