

**Submission
No 450**

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

Name: S.G. Mussared

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19.8.2012

The Director,
General Purpose Standing Committee
Parliament House,
Macquarie St.,
Sydney N.S.W. 2000.

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Dear Sir or Madam,

This submission will express our deep concerns about the Legislative Council inquiry established on 23 April, 2012 to inquire into the management of public land in New South Wales.

Having been deeply interested in National Parks for a little over 30 years, having helped to get Washpool N.P. established and to now see it as a World Heritage area,

and being very much aware of the great role the National Park estate plays in the welfare of future generations of all life, we are very concerned that the true purpose of this Committee will be to downgrade existing National Parks by allowing grazing, logging and high impact recreation such as four-wheel driving, and to oppose the reservation of new National Parks.

We doubt very much that the philosophy of this Committee will sincerely embrace key principles, which underlie our precious National Parks, such as -

- the importance of conservation areas for the protection of bio-diversity and critical ecosystem services, and thus the preservation of life on this planet.
- the commitment by Australia to conserve its biodiversity by signing the International Convention on Biodiversity.

Any Committee considering the role of National Parks should keep firmly in mind that Australia has one of the highest extinction rates in the world and that protected areas is the most effective way of addressing this 'legacy' from the past.

Our concerns are heightened by the inherent bias in the inquiry. The views of the majority of the Committee are against the principles of protected areas. The terms of reference are geared far too much towards economic values and disregard the professionalism of the National Parks and Wildlife Service experts.

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Our grand-children face an extremely uncertain future in the face of climate change. The undermining of our protected areas by a biased Committee will not help them to face this immense challenge.

The N.S.W. government is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, whereby the Australian Government and all State Governments have agreed to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas. N.S.W. has made significant progress to date in this regard. Let us continue in this direction by bringing into the National Park estate the many biogeographic subregions which remain under represented thus building a future for the coming generations of all life.

A biased Committee must not be allowed to spoil this precious goal.

Yours faithfully,
S. G. Mussared.

M. Mussared