

**Submission
No 393**

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

Organisation: Balranald Inc
Name: Ms Connie Mallet
Date received: 31/08/2012

On behalf of the community-based Balranald Inc, we would like to submit the following items for consideration in reference to Yanga National Park which is part of the Balranald Shire NSW.

Mr Tom Butler
General Purpose Standing Committee No.5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000



To whom it may concern,

Re: Senate Enquiry into Management of Public Land – Yanga National Park

On behalf of the community-based Balranald Inc, we would like to submit the following items for consideration:

1. The committee views and approves the Yanga National Park as a valued asset of the Balranald community.
2. We are concerned that slow progress has been made towards building visitor numbers to the Yanga National Park and the subsequent effect this has on a local community that desperately needs a boost in tourism dollars.
3. A continued and concerted effort is required to build Yanga as a brand and icon in its own right and not just part of a generic Parks promotion.
4. The Yanga National Park brand should be intrinsically linked with the Balranald community.
5. The Balranald community, via the Balranald Shire, Balranald Inc and the Yanga National Park staff, needs to be empowered to facilitate marketing activities that will ensure a vibrant future for Yanga National Park and the community through a thriving tourism market.
6. Funding and assistance needs to be provided directly to the local community for the coordination of a relevant and targeted promotional campaign.
7. Allowing the greater utilisation of Parks in both commercial and non commercial activities may be of significant benefit to the local and broader community; however, this needs careful consideration and management so that it does not create greater expense, nor further drains on the tax payers' funds along with greater management issues of these areas of land.

8. The core function of National Parks is to conserve significant ecosystems; any move into commercial activities would need to be sympathetic and relevant with the Park's core functions.
9. Yanga National Park's staff would also need to be empowered to manage such activities. It may be necessary that Park staff is given the authority to remove or deny entry to undesirable visitors.
10. If public lands are to have greater commercial use, then it is only reasonable that those deriving the benefit from that commercial use should also bear greater responsibilities for that land both environmentally and financially, otherwise the NSW taxpayer is being unnecessarily disadvantaged.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts for discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Connie Mallet
Community Development & Events Manager
On behalf of Balranald Inc