

Submission
No 230

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

I am concerned about the possibility of bias, as suggested by the terms of reference and the traditional views of the majority of the Committee of the Enquiry into the use of Public Land, against the prime purpose of National Parks as being for conservation and protection of biodiversity.

This role, in conjunction with non-invasive recreation and enjoyment of our national heritage, has been firmly established in the past, but is now being threatened by demands for potentially damaging recreation such as horse-riding and hunting, road construction and infrastructure for commercial tourism, while staffing and resources for National Parks and Wildlife Service management is being reduced.

The introduction of amateur hunters and shooters, who cannot be adequately "supervised" by 4 officers, will inevitably result in the increased destruction of wildlife, (which is already occurring illegally in National Parks), and damage to bushland and introduction of weed species by off-road vehicles. The latter will also result from the introduction of horse-riding.

Even if hunting is theoretically restricted by species, time and place, there can be no guarantee that these restrictions will be observed, or that accidents will not happen. Safety of the general public, as well as NPWS staff will be threatened, and the peaceful enjoyment of wilderness areas diminished.

The International Convention on Biodiversity, of which Australia is a signatory, requires that representative areas of various types of biographic regions and subregions be preserved, but our efforts to date have many deficiencies.

With increasing pressure from the demands of development, mining and broadscale agriculture, we need more, not fewer areas set aside from interference, for conserving these regions, for biodiversity in general and threatened species, for maintaining wildlife corridors, preserving watersheds, providing greenbelts for recreation, and securing true wilderness. We do not need to threaten and devalue what we already have, or to sacrifice the enjoyment of natural heritage which belongs to all Australians, for the pleasure of the few.

I contend that National Parks should be maintained as they have been, for conservation, free from conflicting usage by individual sporting groups or commercial tourism, and that further Parks be created from public land to consolidate what we have and prepare for future population increase, as well as to protect the representative biogeographic regions as required.