

Submission
No 378

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 31/08/2012

Partially Confidential

Hunting in national parks

I view with alarm the legislation drafted to allow shooters access to national parks in NSW for the purpose of killing feral animals.

This alarm is heightened by my own experience as a landholder of a country property.

The only shooters allowed on my property are those known and specifically approved – a very small number.

This has not stopped other shooters coming on to the property, mainly at night, and causing us considerable anxiety.

While at times we have chased the shooters off by driving towards them and flashing lights, there have been other times when this course of action was just too dangerous, due to the direction of the bullets and the actions of the shooters.

On one occasion a bullet came through the window of the homestead and buried itself in the wall about 300mm above my mother's bed head. If she had been sitting up in bed she would have died.

I can only assume that the shooters feel free to roam the property because public roads pass through and it is widely known that shooting is allowed on privately-owned farmland, even though they have no specific permission and would not receive it if they sought it.

I beg you not to allow shooters into any national parks, except for those licensed shooters hired specifically by NPWS staff.

I believe the presence of shooters will deter other visitors from hiking and camping in national parks; will create a perception all parks are open to hunters at all times and will worsen the damage already caused by 4WD incursions into parks.

The intention of ridding the parks of feral animals may be good, but I fear the result will be more dead native animals among species which already suffer huge losses from being killed on the roads and hunted by feral cats and stray dogs.

Regards

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