

**Submission
No 247**

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

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The Hon Robert Brown MLC
Committee Chair
Inquiry into Public Land Management

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Dear Sir

Thank you for your invitation to attend your informal gathering at Balranald on Tuesday.

I would like to discuss the proposed management of the Regional Forests in the Kyalite District. But first a couple of general comments.

As a local councilor

I have had close observation of the process of purchasing land to be used as National Parks. It seems their mandate is to buy as much country as they can. However having acquired the land they do not have a sufficient budget to properly manage.

They put out spot fires of protest with small gifts of money to promote alternative income streams for affected rural communities. Apparently Yanga was going to attract 50 to 60000 visitors a year. I assume it is a ditto for all the other newly created NPs.

That is simply not going to happen.

Does National Parks Australia have a proper planned process – or are they simply acquiring as much country as possible. NP NSW bought Yanga and has turned their attention elsewhere, at the same time; large tracts of land along the Nullabour are being taken up. I am not anti NPs but surely they must have some agenda we should know about.

As a Camping Tourist.

My wife and I like traveling. We like traveling with our esky, tucker box and swags (and fishing rods) We have been to many NPs, from Innes Np on the Yorke to Diamantina in Queensland.

Every NP has a thousand rules – all beginning with **DON'T**. While buying up country and promising local rural communities economic growth through tourism, more often than not, the reality at ground level is somewhat different.

The Kyalite Regional Parks.

Until recently known as the Kyalite State Forests.

Historically these forests have been managed in the “old” manner. Farmers have had grazing rights. In good seasons they ran sheep/cattle, during poor seasons they removed them until regrowth occurred. Outside, along the roadways the Pastures and Protection Board managed the stock routes accordingly.

Recreators had easy access. Families camped, bushwalked, fished – had quality time together.

Farmers, campers, and the native flora and fauna co-existed and thrived in harmony.

We have been resident at Kyalite for 23 years. While there was the occasional lightning caused tree fire, there has been NO MAJOR FOREST FIRE. It is my understanding that in over 100 years of sharing there never has been.

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Now under National Park control a new method of management has been flagged. Grazing of stock is being phased out. There will be no natural control of under- growth. For fear of creating bush fires and other “sustainability” reasons campers are being monitored- directed-cautioned.

Because of the newly created possibility of massive fire outbreaks the Kyalite Regional Parks will be mapped and fire trials established. Fire fighting equipment will be purchased and kept on standby. **At what cost?**

What will the dollar cost be to: map, purchase and maintain and replace specialist fire fighting equipment?

More importantly what will the cost to our native fauna be?

Australia’s most famous park Kakadou has lost over 70% of its native animals. Why?

Recent research is showing that controlled burns are actually exposing native marsupials to introduced predators. *Google Australian Fauna Endangered by Fires there many case studies*

It has been estimated that Feral Cats alone consume **14 million native marsupials EVERY DAY**. Controlled burns simply remove native marsupial cover, force them range further for food, unnecessarily exposing them to feral cats, foxes, birds of prey.

It seems to me the greatest danger to our Regional Parks is not the farmer or recreational fisherman but National Park policy.

Ken Barnes

Cr Balranald Shire.