

**Submission
No 168**

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

Organisation: Country Women's Association of NSW

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SUBMISSION: INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND USE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Country Women's Association of NSW's Agricultural & Environmental Committee present the following points to the inquiry process:

1. Many of our members are farmers and conservationists, doing their utmost to protect the land they manage. Control of feral animals and weeds is of paramount concern.
2. Concern is felt by members about the conversion of productive agricultural land into national park and reserve areas. Many feel that it was driven by political ambition rather than for a thoughtful progressive outcome.
3. Once an area has become a national park that area of the local shire then is removed from the rate paying process. This places a larger burden on the ratepayers within that local government area.
4. One method that has been suggested for controlling the feral animals in the national parks is to close them up entirely for a six month period and allow professional shooters in to target these animals. The shooters must be licensed and restricted to an area that has been pre-arranged. This method could also be used for controlling the weed situation.
5. Thought needs to be given to those landholders who abut national parks. The lack of control of feral animals and weeds impacts adversely on anyone surrounding these areas, not only with the drift of problems onto their land but also the devaluation of their property because of the close proximity to the national parks.
6. It needs to be recognised that these areas need to be managed in regards to bushfire danger. With staff numbers being cut will there be adequate bushfire protection in the future? Already there is a suggestion of problems with a lack of staff in the park surrounds to cover the potential of a major bushfire disaster. It is extremely important that hazard reduction is implemented and maintained to minimise the risk of a full scale fire outbreak.
7. Stock routes are another area of public land use that needs to be retained. In drought times these routes allow another option for feed for animals and a way to traverse stock to agistment or other properties without the expense of truck travel.
8. Consideration needs to be given to allowing controlled grazing and logging in public land areas to help control feral weeds and animals.

Thank you the opportunity to present our views.

Joy Beames

CWA of NSW Agricultural And Environmental Committee