

**Submission  
No 446**

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

**Organisation:** R. & E. McDonald  
**Name:** Mr Robert McDonald  
**Date received:** 3/09/2012

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26<sup>th</sup> August 2012.  
The Director,  
Ms. Madeline Foley,  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5.  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney NSW. 2000.

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

**SUBMISSION**

**Introduction**

Beekeepers rely heavily upon access to Public Land to both produce honey and provide sustenance for their bee hives between pollination services to horticultural and broad-acre crops.

Victorian beekeepers have traditionally utilised the Red Gum and Black forests in the Riverina for bee sites and with the transfer of large areas of these forests into National Parks, access to those bee sites has, in some cases, been lost.

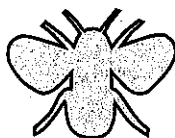
Red Gum and Black Box, like most Eucalypts, flower intermittently -- usually on a two year cycle. Because of the drier weather patterns of the last few years resulting in irregular flowering, some beekeepers have not currently paid licence fees expecting, as has always been the practice in the past, just to take out these bee sites as the weather patterns improve.

**National Parks & Wildlife Service Beekeeping Policy states: Quote:**

*"No additional apiary sites will be approved in areas reserved under the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974. However beekeeping Consents/Permits current on all lands transferred to NSW NPWS will be recognised by the Service."* End quote

The official interpretation of this is that if bee site licences are not paid at the time of the land transfer, the bee sites do not exist.

This also applies to the purchase of freehold land and/or leasehold land in which beekeepers have had a verbal agreement with the owner/leaseholder of that land. This verbal agreement appears to account for nothing in relation to NPWS.



**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012.**

One member of the Parliamentary Panel questioned the Beekeeper Panel on a Paper printed in 1995, titled "Overview of Feral & Managed Honey Bees in Australia." written by David C. Paton, Department Zoology, The University of Adelaide S.A. 5005.

The Summary of this document infers that extreme caution should be exercised in allowing managed honey bees into conserved areas.

This document is quite extensive, containing many References and names of people who, in many cases, make subjective statements. Nowhere does it offer any Peer Review research to support the need for extreme caution. In fact page 48 states that: Quote:

*"Continued access for beekeepers to conserved resources should be permitted provided that there is no specific evidence that shows that continued use is detrimental to natural processes."* End quote.

This statement has particular application to the Red Gum forests which have been used by the Beekeeping Industry for many years.

There is no evidence of anyone in the past ever suggesting that this usage should be questioned.

**R & E. McDonald recommends**

1. That all bee sites lost as a result of changed land management be reinstated.
2. Amendments made to NSW NPWS Policy to create greater flexibility for the renewal of lapsed bee sites now and into the future.
3. In the case of purchase of freehold land for National Parks, that individual beekeeper usage be acknowledged and accepted as a continuing Right.

**Signed:**

For and on behalf of the Partnership of R & E. McDonald,

Robert (Bob) H. McDonald.

Eileen McDonald.

Robert G. McDonald.

Peter R. McDonald.