

**Submission
No 105**

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

Name: Mrs Margaret VanZanten

Date received: 27/07/2012

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27 JUL 2012

GPSC's

Margaret VanZanten

23-7-2012

Inquiry Into The management
Of Public Land in NSW

Dear Committee,

I wish to write to your inquiry in reference to Yanga Station- Balranald.

As a resident of Balranald (my family moving here in 1966) and a member of the Friends of Yanga volunteer group, I would like to make some comments concerning Yanga National Park to your inquiry. Most residents in Balranald (young & old) have had a connection with Yanga and Yanga Lake over many many years, some extending generations. That makes Yanga National Park very important to the Balranald community. Over many years Yanga has provided our community with jobs, collection of fire wood, boating, camping, fishing, skiing, school excursions and all the associated activities that come with the above, just to name a few.

During the drought when the lake was dry, many families were lost, not being able to do a lot of the above activities. Then when Yanga was sold to National Parks, it frightened the community. The community believed it would bring all the above activities they had enjoyed for years to an end. Of course this is not the case, yes there are some activities which could not continue now it was a national Park, but over all there are still a lot of recreational activities continuing with better controls and safety for the users.

I thing I like most about Yanga is that the community is invites and encouraged to be part of the park. I myself joined the Friends of Yanga and enjoy being part of what I believe is our park. The park brings many benefits to our community. It gives me a feeling of ownership and commitment to participate in its continuing up keep and improvements.

Although there are many good things happening at the park, I believe there is still more that can be introduced of course with the environment, conservation and sustainability looked at. I would like to see the park investigate implementing the collection of fire wood for personal use. Since forest NSW has stopped issuing fire wood permits, it has become almost impossible for our community to collect fire wood for their wood heaters to keep warm in winter. Cutting our own fire wood has been a tradition our community has enjoyed for generations. The establishing of our park so far must have cost a lot of money, but you only have to visit the many sites to see where the dollars have been spent. The Facilities provided so far are wonderful and the community is starting to realise this:

I know the park is big and just maintaining it takes a huge budget. I would ask that National Parks not only maintain but continue to improve the many environmental and historic treasures within the park. Not just the homestead and lake, but river red gum forest, wet lands and the river itself, just to name a few. Take the time to come and visit our wonderful park sometime soon. Thank you for allowing us to put our views to your committee.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret VanZanten

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23-7-2012

Inquiry into the Management
Of Public Land

Dear Committee,

I wish to write to your inquiry in reference to River Red gum State Forests in the Southern Riverina.

I would very much like the inquiry to look at the issue of management of State Forests on Western Lands Leases. My family always collected our fire wood at Yanga for years, with permission of the Manager at the time. Then Yanga became a National Park and we could no longer collect our fire wood from Yanga. We then were lucky to find another source. We found a western land lease property that had a lot of fire wood lying in paddocks, as the loggers had logged there some years earlier. We had the land holders permission as long as we applied for a fire wood permit from Forest NSW. We did this for quite some years.

I am not sure exactly what happened but Forest NSW told us we could no longer get a fire wood permit, as the Forest was now a National Park. National Parks told us, yes that is the case however Forest NSW still managed NSW Forests on Western Land Leases. Parks were not sure why they had stopped issuing permits. I could understand why, if there was not enough fire wood on the ground, but in this case the supply of fire wood was very sustainable. It is also very hard to understand why families can not get a permit to collect 3 tonne of fire wood while there is a commercial wood cutter on the same Western Land Lease cutting tonnes of wood everyday. I believe he is managed by Forest NSW, if he is not then he must have permission from someone, why him and not us?

I would very much like the inquiry to look into this issue and maybe put some common sense back into it. I don't understand, that if there is a way to

restore fire wood collection on Western Land Leases with out causing an impact on the environment or conservation and it is proved to be sustainable, then why shouldn't it be restored?

It has been a family tradition in my family to go out for the day and cut our fire wood for winter. We went as a family, took a picnic lunch and enjoyed the day. Keeping warm by the heater is a bonus. It has become almost impossible for families to collect fire wood legally in our area. Please take the time to investigate the impact on families and if there is anyway it can be rectified to allow families to keep warm and healthy.

Of course it would have to be managed, be sustainable and cause no or very little impact to the environment and conservation. The Forest I am talking about is "Weimby". There would be other Forests too. Thank you for allowing me to put my concerns to your inquiry and I hope there is something you can do. If there is no way to reverse this issue, then please tell us where, how and what we can do to collect fire wood legally again to keep our family warm in winter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret VanZanten