

**Submission
No 35**

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

Organisation: Sunraysia Apiarists Association

Name: Mr Jon Williams

Date received: 19/07/2012

18th July, 2012.

The Hon. Robert Brown, MLC
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Dear Sir,

The Sunraysia Apiarists Association welcomes the opportunity to present our views for your thoughtful consideration.

We have listed the following main areas of concern in regard to apiculture activity on N.S.W. public land, particularly the recently gazetted National Parks in South West N.S.W.

Victorian beekeepers have had a long history of harmonious use of these areas due to their proximity to the beekeeping hubs of Central and Northern Victoria.

OUR CONCERNS:

1. The Western Lands Lease land managers weren't interested in official bee sites and encouraged beekeepers to negotiate directly with the lessees so when, without warning, some of that land was gazetted to National Parks, it was lost to beekeepers.
2. Forestry sites which were deemed vacant at the time were also lost to the industry. In explanation, during the drought fees were waived on some sites for a number of years in N.S.W. and hadn't been reactivated as recovery of flora hadn't warranted beekeeper use before the changeover. These Bee sites have disappeared. Furthermore most public land bee sites are of a temporary nature and are only paid for and used periodically i.e. It is not unusual for a site to be unused for 5 to 10 years and suddenly be in huge demand due to the flowering habits of trees. These vacant sites have also disappeared.
3. With the gazetting of private land into National Parks bee sites have also been lost to the industry.

In conclusion we would urge the Committee to recommend the reinstatement of all historic Sites that have been lost to our industry due to land tenure change. These sites are an integral part of the billion dollar plus wealth created through pollinated agriculture. They are also an important part of the food security of Australia as well as supplying a renewable nectar source for our bees for our personal prosperity.

JON WILLIAMS
President,
Sunraysia Apiarists Association.