

**Submission
No 322**

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

Name: Ms Josephine Vaughan

Date received: 29/08/2012

Josephine Vaughan,

Re: Inquiry into and report on the management of public land in New South Wales

Dear Committee,

I live on a block of land adjacent to the Black Bulga National Park and am very interested to see this land and all other National Parks in NSW managed in a way that puts the conservation of nature and ecosystems, and the encouragement of biodiversity, as the most important focus when considering the management of National Parks NSW. I hereby address your Terms of Reference:

1. The conversion of Crown Land, State Forests and agricultural land into National Park estate or other types of conservation areas, including the:

A. Process of conversion and the assessment of potential operational, economic, social and environmental impacts.

I feel that adding to National Parks is a very good idea, provided that the investment of conversion is wisely done. Why waste resources on managing insignificant land?

Key areas need to be included in the Parks system such as biodiverse landscapes and critical ecosystem services such as fresh water catchment protection. Also the landscapes, places and objects in national parks which are significant for their Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values. The use of the Parks should be maintained as a place to protect, and it should be ensured that it is not messed up by trail bike riders, hunting, timber-getters or grazers. According to Taylor et al (2001), The science is clear that protected areas are the most effective way of conserving biodiversity.

B. Operational, economic, social and environmental impacts after conversion, and in particular, impacts upon neighbours of public land and upon Local Government

As a neighbour of a National Park, I can tell you that we and other locals benefit economically and socially from national parks. Many informal local events occur within the parks and we have a lot of tourism in our area specifically due to the proximity of the Parks, bringing much economic benefit locally. The presence of the biodiversity of the Parks nearby the farmlands here is beneficial to the soil health, and the insect movements, local climate control (wind calming, frost-reducing, rain inducing).

2. The adherence to management practices on all public land that are mandated for private property holders, including fire, weed and pest management practices.

More funding is needed so the management of national parks can continue to be undertaken by the skilled professional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and supported by a large number of community volunteers who take pride in these special areas. The NPWS has considerable expertise in feral animal control, invasive weed management and fire management, but we can see by their hard work with not enough financial input that they are struggling. They need more staff and more equipment.

3. Examination of models for the management of public land, including models that provide for conservation outcomes which utilise the principles of "sustainable use".

This is important because NSW needs to reflect that Australia has signed the International Convention on Biodiversity and committed to conserve biodiversity. The NSW government is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment whereby the Australian Government and all State Governments agreed to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas, and while the NSW government has made significant progress to date in this regard, many biogeographic subregions remain under represented.

Yours Sincerely, Josephine Vaughan.

Taylor, M. F. J., Sattler, P. S., Evans, M., Fuller, R. A., Watson, J. E. M., & Possingham, H. P. (2011). What works for threatened species recovery? An empirical evaluation for Australia. *Biodiversity Conservation*, 20(4), 767-777.