

**Submission
No 349**

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

Name: Mr Graham Daly

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I believe that this inquiry into the management of public land and particularly national parks is unnecessary and politically motivated.

The text and content of the terms of reference appears to be biased against national parks. Pts 1(a) and (b) both refer to the same issue of the environmental and other impacts of national park declarations, they are repetitive and worded for emphasis. Pt 2 makes an unnecessary allusion to management practices on private land and Pt 3 presumes that "sustainable use" management options can provide adequate conservation outcomes.

Most of the locations listed in Pt 1(c) were the subjects of relatively recent decisions by the previous govt and they appear to be the targets of an agenda to wind them back like the latest marine park decisions. All of these reserves were the product of comprehensive assessment and public consultation processes that examined potential impacts and other management options. It is pointless and wasteful to revisit these decisions and unfair to all those people who contributed to them.

Any inquiry into pest, weed and fire management practices should include private and Crown leasehold land as the threats often originate from there. The main problem with the management of conservation reserves is a lack of resources. Parks service staff manage professionally within these limitations. Recent govt decisions on access for hunting and more horse riding are likely to increase pest and weed problems in national parks.

Our national parks are a major asset to NSW providing biodiversity protection, clean air and water, carbon sequestration, cultural heritage protection, limitless opportunities for personal recreation and inspiration and a permanent economic resource. The terms of reference do not reflect this. "Sustainable use" is a discredited term used to justify exploitative practices such as logging, grazing and high impact recreation that have no place in our protected areas.