

Submission  
No 33

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially Confidential

I have been listening to the News Reports today and the Minister saying that the current hunting system works. If it works why am I forced to confront people with guns using my property to access the forest. Why do we have to deal with hunters shooting wombats on our front driveway with the wombat between the hunter and our house. If they had missed the wombat would one of my family have been hit. Calling the police does no good they tell me they cant do anything unless they catch them in the act or I have to run out to people shooting towards our house and try and get some identification. The hunters also are not completely dumb as they take off before I can Identify them. Although one hunter I asked why he was doing the wrong thing his reply was "if hunters had brains they wouldnt be hunters". And what has happened to all the reports of misconduct where I identified the miscreants, I can only assume it has been swept under the carpet because I have never heard of any follow ups and the Minister tells us every thing is working and "supervised".

Partially Confidential

## Hunting on Crown Land

To whom it may concern

I own a property that is adjacent to a State Forest, and despite the fact the State Government has fought my every attempt to make my property a wildlife sanctuary I run it as such and also use it as a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre. I was assured that existing State Forest and Environmental law would also protect my property. This has not been the case and as far as I have been able to determine there is no will or effort to enforce these laws in State Forests. I am constantly removing illegal hunters from my property and having to deal with illegal hunting and shooting on my property from hunters straying there from the Forest. Although I report many instances to the Game Council, State Forest and police including the shooting of protected animals, I am reticent to do it too often as I fear to become the "the boy who cried wolf". I have also learnt that it is a waste of time calling the police as I am so far away from the nearest Police Station that the hunters know they will be well and truly gone back into the forest before the Police arrive. So there is nothing the Police can do about it. Despite my property straddling a main access into a State Forest I have never seen any sort of monitoring or supervision of shooting activities in the forest. The message I receive again and again from this Government is they do not care about my home, my family's safety, the safety of protected animals and the environment.

Now for this Government to open National Parks to shooters is a total betrayal to the people of this State and also show that this government cannot be trusted and is not interested in the environment or conservation or the safety of the users of these areas. There is a growing record of shooting accidents and it appears this government not only does care but wants to open the scope to more protect animal slaughter and "accidents".

1. I am dismayed that the Premier has broken his promise on hunting in national parks.
2. I am strongly opposed to hunting in national parks, nature reserves, state conservation areas and State Forests. Simply because it has failed to be even remotely properly controlled in the State Forests. Hunters on a daily basis are thumbing there noses at the authorities because they know they can.
3. Hunting by recreational shooters in national parks presents very real risks to public safety, and is not a proven method for eradicating feral animals. Due to the number of incidents with hunters on my property I am reticent to allow people to wander on my property and usually make sure that I am noisy when I do for safety. This is at odds with running my property as a sanctuary.

4. The Premier must take urgent action to restore his government's credibility on environmental matters and the protection of the public on crown land.

Frankly I feel that the situation is becoming so bad and so dangerous (and this is from personal experience not from what I read) that maybe I need to stop hoping that common sense will prevail and start taking a more proactive roll in removing from Government those who do not care about my family's safety or safety of those animals they are legislated to protect.