

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 214a**

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

**Name:** Mr John Harris

**Date received:** 5/08/2012

---

## Yanga Station Woolshed

The lost opportunity of National Park management in presenting the Yanga Station Woolshed and surrounding buildings as a window on our rural history.

The need to improve the display, so as to educate and impress upon local and overseas visitors the wonder of our rural history, the people who made this history and the way that wool was harvested and the land and river used.

SUBMISSION TO:

**GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5  
INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**CHAired BY: The Hon Robert Brown MLC**

FOCUS OF THIS SUBMISSION:

**YANGA STATION in WAKOOL SHIRE**

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN HARRIS

Being interested in the rural history of Australia, my wife and I visited Yanga Station Woolshed in late 2011. I was less than impressed with the care taken of the buildings and structures.

The Shearers' mess was as it was left when the last shearing team cut out, the newspapers left behind by the last team were still on the tables and nothing had been done to clean the showers up.

The original Shearers' quarters were roped off because they were about to fall down. I could see no intention of maintenance to these. The shearing board was in disrepair and the expert's room, apart from the dust and general lack of care was as if the team had walked out the day before. Handpieces, combs, cutters, grinder, grinder wheels and experts' tools were all left lying around in the dust. A stick calendar on the wall was left to tell us when Yanga had been taken over by National Parks albeit only because it was still hanging where the Team expert had left it.

While we were there a husband and wife couple from Denmark came in and I was able to explain the workings of the shearing shed and how the shearing team harvested the wool, something not mentioned in any sort of understandable detail in amongst the global warming propaganda that covered most of the walls in the wool room. I was embarrassed, but had to agree with the Danish visitors, when they commented that it seemed to them, as they traveled around Australia that the majority of National Parks across the country were sadly in various states of disrepair and showed a marked lack of care and maintenance.

In short the area of the shearing shed was a disgrace and if this was the Government's intention when it purchased Yanga Station it was a gross waste for taxpayers money.

I would suggest that in regard to the Yanga Station Woolshed and surrounding buildings this historic place be used to promote our history and be set up so that future generations and overseas visitors are educated in the way that our country evolved and our rural industries developed. In Yanga's case the way that wool was harvested and the river used. There are many private and public museums to take a lead from, for instance the Peppin Centre at Deniliquin, the Shearing Museum at Hay and the Qantas Display at Longreach are among the many local and commercially operated successes. These places are set up in a way in which all visitors can enjoy their stay. A serious visitor can glean and take away knowledge while a visitor who wishes to browse can see what's on offer and go away knowing more than they did when they entered the displays.

The opportunity to make something of the Yanga Station Woolshed area is immense and perhaps if the current administration isn't capable of doing this, then local historians and enthusiasts who understand the gestalt of our rural history should be used and encouraged to help formulate a more passionate and educated display of our history and the people who lived it.