

**Submission
No 268**

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

Name: Mr Brian Everingham

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Dear Sir

It pains me that I must make this submission in the first place. The Inquiry is inherently biased and the views of the majority of the committee are against the principles of protected areas.

Further, the terms of reference are biased towards economic values and disregard the professionalism of the National Parks and Wildlife Service experts. This goes against the purposes of the national park estate and threatens the entire concept of ecological sustainability.

The case studies chosen by the committee are new additions to the national park estate and do not provide examples of the long term benefits of national parks to local communities. Despite that, the River Red Gum forest national parks and Yanga National park will be significant icons if allowed to be managed appropriately.

Our conservation areas are important not only for biodiversity protection, but also for other critical ecosystem services such as fresh water catchment protection, and carbon sequestration. Under current economic modelling these are not taken into consideration and in the terms of reference of this inquiry they are discounted.

The landscapes, places and objects in national parks are significant for their Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values. These go way beyond the terms of inquiry for this committee.

Australia has signed the International Convention on Biodiversity and committed to conserve biodiversity along with other significant international treaties. Included within the national parks under threat within this Inquiry are those with significant wetlands, for example (the Ramsar Convention)

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. In particular, the bioregions west of the Great Divide are massively under represented and the Riverina bioregion is one of the worst!

The science is clear that protected areas are the most effective way of conserving biodiversity.

Local communities benefit economically and socially from national parks. I have argued for many years that it is imperative that for there to be sustainable communities there must also be sustainable environments. They are mutually dependent. Some communities have understood this. Some refuse to do so for local political reasons.

The management of national parks is 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.

The effective management of national parks for conservation is hampered by budget pressure and demands to manage and provide infrastructure for an increasing number of recreational activities such as hunting and horse riding.