INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Anthony Miller

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I am a grazier on the southern tablelands, and my immediate northern neighbour is a National Park.

I would like to submit that issue here is not of public land management, but of no management at all.

The Park is not one that you would visit, it does contain an early example of cattle yards and a drovers hut, but as the park as been shut to legal visitors, these cannot be viewed.

The park has no policing or scrutiny on whom visits, my issue as a grazier is the illegal shooters entering the park, destroying gates and fences to enter my property, them have to submit to my house being spotlighted, and stock killed or stolen.

Closely coupled with this is an invasion on long weekends, etc by pig hunters and their dogs. From experience the dogs are left behind, and they become the next issue to domestic stock, and slower moving wildlife.

The park also seems to be a haven for feral predators, dogs, both wild and crossbreds, and feral pigs. These animals, preying on sheep, and smaller cattle has resulted in 50% of my property destocked. I cannot safely put grazing animals onto my best pasture as they become victim to the ferals, whom shelter in the park.

Further issue is the lack of fire breaks and prescribed burning. The parks are not burnt off and dangerous fuel levels exist. They are a real risk to me, and neighbouring properties. I would like the park to acknowledge that they too have a responsibility to hazard reduction.

I have not been consulted on these issues, and further to my surprise, I found boundary pegs placed 100m inside my fences, which a secondary survey found a land grab by the parks of 1 square km of my country.

I would submit that basic land care as expected in graziers, also be enforced on the national Parks, and greater monitoring of people using the parks be maintained.

That early farming heritage be recognised, despite the fact the assets are in a bush reserve.