

**Submission
No 295**

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

Name: Mr Kenneth Gell

Date received: 25/08/2012

The Director General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Parliament House Macquarie St SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

I run a family business in beekeeping which has been operating for now four generations with my son now becoming the fifth ,as beekeepers we travel various distances depending on the flora patterns available at any one time this also mean state boundaries are not an issues given reliable transport these days.

It concerns me greatly that the forest systems in NSW are being taken over by National park system this resulting in loss of bee site to the industry.

At a conference 12 months ago a officer of national park mislead the audience by saying that no sites would be lost if there is a bee site there now ,this gave us confidence that industry would not suffer, however what he failed to mention was that it was paid up sites on that time over transfer to national parks from forest this leaving many site unaccounted as some were not paid up during the drought years and as a result of this we have lost a huge amount of country that has been used by many beekeepers in the pasts

We would like this to be rectified by allowing be sites to be given back to industry under the licence program that is current in NSW with first offer to those who previously held the site upon proof.

The other concern that we have is the buying up of private land and turning into national parks , this is leaving beekeepers once again without land to use as they had before.

National parks are saying because there is no evidence of prior use, as paper work there were no bee sites there before, this is because beekeepers and land holders had private agreements nothing on paper, this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency as beekeepers depend on these areas for their lively hood .

All of these areas are being protected for what they are now ,it is because the prior use has made it like it is now where beekeeping took practice and other mans activities ,if it is locked up forever as national parks policy would like, it will become a fire hazard and will be of no value to anyone.

There is no clear evidence that the honey bee has any detrimental effects on the native flora or fauna so there is no real reason not to allow the industry back into this country as soon as possible.

We have lived with all users of the forest before and believe we can still operate as before as long as policy changes to allow beekeeping in land that once was available to us to keep pollination of food crops continuing and the honey industry viable.

The Red Gum forest system is of my concern as we often work this area within NSW with the banning of forest timber harvesting is a to the detriment of the system as thinning is needed to keep a healthy forest system growing, however it must be controlled thinning and not clear felled. Thinning can be done at a stage where wood can be utilized for fire wood collection and not left on the ground to rot and become a fire hazard as is now in many cases in Victoria ,it can become a resource for government given the right policy.

Regards Ken Gell