

**Submission
No 87**

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

Name: Mr Robert Bosevski

Date received: 27/07/2012

I have been a recreational user of public land for over 10 years and have been active in both 4wd and conservation hunting in state forests for the past 3 years.

During this time I have seen the gradual return of native species to some of the areas where I tend to go. I have also noticed that there are 'barren' areas devoid of native animals where there is a marked increase in (especially) fox and feral dog populations. I have been dismayed at the times when I have been trying to eradicate feral species to see on my map and gps that the area where the ferals have established their populations is cut off either physically via locked gates or other fencing, or through huge weed barriers, which make it near impossible to further track these pests. I think that managing state land should include managing weeds and other flora that is destructive of native bush rather than keeping people locked out of parks as a general strategy. I have seen the slow decline in natural native forest to the establishments of both feral animals and weeds in our state lands.

I have also seen the devastation that poisoning causes to both feral and native animals and as a hunter I would never want to cause such suffering. Whilst advocates of poisoning prefer that this system is utilised as a 'cure all' for feral pests, I am against it on the basis that it causes undue and cruel punishment to animals. Hunting is one part of feral control, but there must be a better way than wholesale poison.

That said, the state of some forests as dumping grounds for burned out cars, left over refuse and household rubbish is sad to see as well.

I have been confronted by alleged 'greenies' over hunting. When I stated that I usually camp and hunting feral animals is done legally through the Gamecouncil booking system, I was told that I was not welcome in forests as a 'murderer'. I do not believe that it is equitable that legal, R licensed hunters can be stereotyped and made to feel that their access to forests is a negative thing, when these areas are open to all. While out in the bush, I have never encountered people other than people working as loggers or the occasional hunter and camper who have not been so biased toward the activities that I choose to pursue. I take offence at some of the propaganda that paints all hunters as 'Rambo rednecks' when all I seek to do is what I am legally entitled to do as any other citizen of NSW.

All in all, I am a law abiding, taxpaying citizen of NSW who has had no issues with the law, or the current Gamecouncil system to access public land.

What I do have issue with is the many hours long drives to access the nearest state lands, and the gradual degradation of the forests that I use. I have seen this first hand and whilst dismaying, I believe that I can at least make some difference through my preferred activity while I am in the park. Whether that be hauling out some rubbish or helping in controlling feral species. I do ask for expanded access to be able to continue what I feel is a worthy and positive contribution to society.