

**Submission
No 37**

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

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The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
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I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into Management of Public Land in NSW. The terms of reference of this inquiry are focused on economic advantages of public land. This Committee must also consider the essential protection of ecosystem services, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural values of public land in NSW.

Protected areas in NSW are part of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) system which is meant to provide resilience for the natural environment. And yes, humans do benefit from a resilient natural environment. NSW is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment whereby Australia and all states agreed to a CAR system which is still being implemented in NSW. Many biogeographic subregions and ecological habitats are still inadequately protected in NSW.

Logging and mining our precious natural areas may provide short-term economic benefits to humans, but no one is going to benefit in the long term as more and more plant and animal species suffer extinction, ecosystems collapse, resources dwindle, and water, land and air become increasingly toxic.

Protected areas in NSW are important not only for biodiversity protection but also for other ecosystem services such as clean water and carbon sequestration. Australia is a signatory to The International Convention on Biodiversity and is committed to conserve biodiversity. Taylor et al (2011) have shown that protected areas are the most effective way to conservation of biodiversity.

I live in far northern NSW. People come from all over Australia and internationally to visit national parks in this region. Local communities benefit socially as well as economically from the rich biodiversity and opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural values of the national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas in northern NSW. Many of these conservation reserves were a result of the Upper North East Regional Forest Agreement in NSW which was part of the implementation of a CAR system in NSW. These reserves will provide longer term benefits to the people of NSW if maintained and managed as protected areas.

Yours sincerely

Holly North

REFERENCES

Taylor, MFJ, Sattler, PS, Evans, M, Fuller, RA, Watson, JEM, & Possingham, HP 2011, What works for threatened species recovery? An empirical evaluation for Australia. *Biodiversity Conservation*, 20(4), 767-777.