

**Submission
No 118**

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

Name: Mr Chris Beale

Date received: 2/08/2012

The Hon Robert Brown MLC.
Chairperson
General Purpose Standing Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir.

INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

I defiantly do not agree with the CEO of Natural Parks Association of NSW in that the Natural Parks, Conservation Reserves, Crown Reserves, State Forests and TSR'S are under threat by this inquiry and the comments on the NPA.NSW webpage to claim this inquiry is biased is to my mind extremely false.

The people of this Region which is home to the Riverina Red Gum National park find the manner in which the then Premier- Nathan Reese proclaimed the park 'purely as a way in staying in power as a political move to gain Greens preferences'.

At the time the NRC report into the forestry industry and its effects on these forests and its recommendations were not referred to.

This inquiry whilst it may not be able to return these forests and lands to there original state prior to his proclamation may instead strongly recommend to parliament that the River Red Gum National Park ,Yanga Station ,the Pilliga National Park and others to be managed under RAMSAR wise managements principals.

Many of our red gum forests are Ramsar listed wetlands. These are multiple use forests under the wise use management principles of the Ramsar convention.

and have been actively managed by the Riverina Communities.

Mostly our communities require these forests for recreational purposes such as fishing ,dispersed camping ,horse riding ,bushwalking ,bird watching, bush driving along tracks, grazing for fire risk reduction and income either by the timber industry for furniture products. Note that furniture not only stores carbon but has some major advantages for all.

Recently many thousands of hectares were destroyed in the Pilliga National Park (80,000) by fire and this park has only been locked up a few years. When managed by the community and forestry this had not happened before.

These forests are also under threat as since the Significant Roadside Vegetation Act has come into being most rural shires or councils now have SRV on a majority of roads. Not only can we no longer collect firewood etc as a member of the local fire brigade we find we can not do controlled burns or spray for firebreaks in the spring. In the past each shire or council had the practice of burning of so that we could use the roads as a major control area along which we could defend when under attack from bush fires. We are informed that this season we be a very high risk due to excessive fuel loads from the build up of long grasses and ground based matter that we by law cannot control.

I would like this inquiry to suggest that parliament investigate and create some form of compromise in management by NSW Roads or the forests and national parks will be destroyed by fires which will probably most likely start from roadside vegetation adjacent to them.

Travelling stock reserves management are currently being reviewed to be down sized in numbers of wards purely on the overall running costs to the NSW government.

As a concerned fisherman and camper I would like to recommend that they stay intact as the long paddock throughout nsw and not be broken up sold or converted to national parks. Many clubs and fisherman only have access to rivers and streams thru TSR,s and our access is vital as we cannot go thru National Parks and many landholders have denied us access due to possible litigation (insurance). I recommend the inquiry submit a finding that access be always be allowed and request changes in legislation to allow this. I would be happy to appear before this inquiry at a public forum when it's in our area.

Regards
Chris Beale