

**Submission
No 476**

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

Name: Mrs Dorothea Willey

Date received: 20/09/2012

Letter to Adrian Piccoli -MP

Dear Sir,

I wish to alert you to the issue regarding fishermen and campers alike to the likelihood of our access to rivers and streams of the Murray Darling Basin being denied following the Inquiry into the Management of Public Land in NSW . Advocating "lock up & leave It", extreme environmental groups are currently flooding the enquiry with submissions (due by 31st August 2012).

Recreational fishing and "free camping" are valuable social and recreational activities enjoyed by many and contribute to the social and economic standing of our communities. However, this remains dependent on access to rivers, streams –and TSR's, which the National Parks Association are trying to have rolled over to National Parks management . We – as "grey nomads" frequently use these areas for our recreational activities and have done for many years. Our children grew up appreciating the vast beauty of this country and it's native fauna and our grandchildren are learning the same values. Indeed, these values are held by many of our friends and acquaintances.

Aside from locking the public out of what is essentially "our" waterways and land, small industries such as furniture making from native timbers have been severely affected by closure to Red Gum Forests. The detrimental effect of closure of these areas on many small communities cannot be discounted. They may lose their general stores, or their cafes and service stations as the users of the nearby river and parks access dwindle.

The expansion of National Parks in NSW from 77 in 1967 to now more than 800 has possibly compromised the funding for upkeep of these areas with the resultant view that closure may now be the only option to their "management". How will the build up of fuel on the forest floor affect the bush fire risk? Will the noxious weed problem only increase, and will the dumping of refuse now run unabated in these areas? In my experience, the current users of river access and TSR's (in the main) leave these areas cleaner by far than they found them, because we wish to preserve them for our (and our families and friends) future use.

I wish to stop the out of control green groups once again getting their way, so am writing to you to ask if there is anything you can do to pursue these matters for our community.

Yours sincerely

Dorothea Willey.