

**Submission
No 341**

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

Organisation: Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Date received: 30/08/2012

Protected areas are crucial for maintaining biodiversity, providing clean water, carbon sequestration and clean air.

NSW has signed an agreement to establish a network of protected areas that are comprehensive, adequate and representative of the range of ecosystems in our state.

We request the committee to uphold that agreement and to recommend that these areas be managed primarily for conservation.

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment



P.O. Box 845, Narrabeen NSW 2101

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 9230 2981

August 30, 2012

Dear Sir,

The mission of our organisation is to seek permanent environmental protection for the remaining bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon in NSW. We have over 900 members and supporters.

- We are most concerned about the terms of reference of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 and that this inquiry is being led by a member of the Shooters' Party of NSW and that the members of the committee are not appropriately representative of those with a breadth of experience in managing areas of biodiversity importance or of cultural values (either Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal).
- We need to carefully manage and protect natural areas to
 - a) preserve biodiversity,
 - b) provide connectivity for movement of wildlife during climate change,
 - c) protect fresh water supplies,
 - d) ensure carbon sequestration and
 - e) produce oxygen.
- The effective management of national parks for conservation is hampered by budget pressure and demands to manage and provide infrastructure for an increasing number of recreational activities such as hunting, mountain bike riding and horse riding.
- We urge your committee to recommend that NSW honours their commitment to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment whereby the Australian Government and all State Governments agreed to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas and to manage these appropriately to protect their natural values.

Yours sincerely,

President