

**Submission
No 209**

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

Name: Ms Kristine Hely

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I am extremely concerned that the inquiry into the management of public land in New South Wales is to be used as an impetus for winding back progress that has been made to nature conservation in New South Wales over the past twenty years.

Australia, as is the entire planet facing increasing extinction rates & losses to biodiversity. To avoid catastrophic loss of plant & animal species & the ecosystems that to which they belong, management should be based on scientific research.

Research has shown us that to avoid species decline areas of land need to be set aside purely for ecosystem function (i.e. without resources being removed by humans). These areas need to be of sufficient size for ecosystem function and to have unimpeded connectivity between other ecosystems for the exchange of genetic material to keep plant & animal communities healthy & sustainable.

These areas do need to be managed, but again this management needs to be undertaken following principles that have been developed through scientific research & knowledge, not opinion of ecologically uneducated ignorant views as proposed by groups such as the hunters & fishers party.

Land acquisition for ecosystem conservation needs to be increased not reduced to prevent the massive species decline that we are facing.