

Hon. Robert Brown M.L.C.

Dear Sir,

May I respectfully suggest that Conservation of State forests and possible lands to National Park estate would be a costly disaster. National Parks is in my opinion a huge waste of money, really, sit and think what do they produce? The answer very little. Huge areas have been declared Park then locked up and allowed to degenerate, also they are poorly maintained, undergrowth is allowed to build, feral animal increase and very few people go into and get pleasure out of these parks. Also the local Government loses income. Forest on the other hand produce a product that is needed, produce an income for the Crown, build roads and facilities that people can use. As an example in the 1960-70-80, Gloucester had a forest industry that employed about 20 people mainly in the field and in industry, two large sawmills, many smaller mills employing several hundred people, built the road across Barrington Tops from Gloucester to Scone. Now the Forestry Department employs a handful of people and Gloucester has no Sawmills left.

Go into the Pilliga Forest, this area supported a solid timber industry, declared a Park, now no mills, no industry, no employment, no return to the Crown but full of vermin, weeds and pine trees that are choking out all vegetation and impossible to move amongst.

Give it back to Forestry and the Crown will get an income and people will be employed.

Toorale Station at Bourke should be returned to private enterprise as it will give the Bourke Shire additional income. New owners would make the property profitable, control vermin and in general for better neighbours.

Yours faithfully,

Keith J Latham,

**RECEIVED**

21 MAY 2012

**GPSC's**