

**Submission
No 235**

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

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Management of Public Lands in NSW

In 2010 the Federal Government in conjunction with the State Government bought Old Dromana, which is situated on the lower Gwydir River west of Moree, and established it as a national park. While this property was a seasonal wetland the previous owner had put in banks and channels to make it a permanent wetland and had also blocked the Gwydir River. I have owned the property Broadwater for 36 years. It is situated about 12km west of Old Dromana.

For the past two wheat harvests I have been contacting Daryl Albertson and trying to stop environmental flows as water flowed out from Old Dromana across a couple of my neighbours crops and encroached on my crop. This year is the worst yet and I have possibly lost up to 500ha of wheat and I am told that they could divert the water but that they really don't want to as the water sharing plan (established in 2004 during a drought) has another two years before it will be reviewed. At the same time, the Gwydir River, which flows through my northern paddock is dry. On Old Dromana itself there are coolibah trees dying because while they can withstand being flooded, they cannot tolerate standing in water for three years.

There was no environmental impact study done to see what the impact was on neighbouring properties when this property was bought and since then a further two properties have been bought which are on the Gingham branch of the Gwydir River, affecting more farmers in that area.

An investigation needs to be undertaken to establish why the Gwydir River no longer flows after it leaves Old Dromana and if there are any illegal earthworks. The custodians of national parks should adhere to the basic laws of the land and should not operate to the detriment of their neighbours.