

**Submission
No 169**

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

Organisation: National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

Name: Ms Suzanne Jones

Date received: 1/08/2012

Dear Sir

I refer to my email of 6 July and an earlier conversation with your office concerning the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and its relationship with the Office of Environment and Heritage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the management of public land in New South Wales. This submission is made on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council comprises of members with a wide range of experience, qualifications and expertise.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council appreciates the opportunity to make this submission to the Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 inquiry into the management of public land in NSW I would be pleased to clarify or elaborate on any of the points made in this submission. I can be contacted

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Jones BTP(Hons) MBA MPIA FAICD
Chair, National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



The Hon Robert Brown MLC
Committee Chair
Attention:
The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our reference: Doc12/29675
Contact: Suzanne Jones

Dear Sir

I refer to my email of 6 July and an earlier conversation with your office concerning the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and its relationship with the Office of Environment and Heritage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the management of public land in New South Wales. This submission is made on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

The responsibilities of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council are to:-

- (a) provide advice to the Minister and the Director-General on:
- (i) strategies for attaining the objects of this Act (being the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974), and
 - (ii) the development, implementation and review of the policies and plans of the National Parks and Wildlife Service directed towards achieving those objects, and
 - (iii) strategies for promoting, consistent with this Act, the conservation of natural and cultural heritage outside the reserve system, and
 - (iv) the care, control and management of areas reserved under this Act and the development, implementation, review, amendment and alteration of plans of management for those areas, and
 - (v) the preservation and protection of wildlife, and
 - (vi) conservation agreements and conservation areas, and
 - (vii) wilderness areas and wild rivers, and
 - (viii) any matter referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for advice under this Act or by the Minister or the Director-General or that the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council considers necessary for the administration of this Act.
- (b) to consult with the Director-General on the National Parks and Wildlife Service's operations and on the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPW Act).

In addition to the above responsibilities, the legislation also requires the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council to give advice on a range of specific circumstances including draft conservation plans, draft plans of management, certain leases, licences and the granting of easements and right of ways.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council comprises of members with a wide range of experience, qualifications and expertise. A full list of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council members is attached at **Tab A**.

On 3 July 2012, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council held an extraordinary meeting to consider matters relevant to the Inquiry. Before turning to the specifics of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council considered the current strengths and weaknesses of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's (NPWS) existing processes surrounding the conversion of Crown Land, State Forests and agricultural land into the national parks estate. In doing this, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also sought to identify areas for future improvement.

Existing Strengths within the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its management processes

- The knowledge, skills and passion of the National Parks and Wildlife Service staff in natural resource management is high and clearly demonstrated across the State,
- There is significant transparency and professionalism in the current plan of management process with in-built opportunities for public consultation,
- Generally, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has good community relations with park neighbours and stakeholders at a regional and local level,
- There are robust scientific and environmental assessment processes and significant professional resource management skills and capabilities within the National Parks and Wildlife Service,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council brings a diverse range of expertise and advice to assist the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Minister. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also provides a good information conduit to key bodies and stakeholders,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service undertakes practical, effective land management with constrained resourcing,
- As part of the assessment process prior to the addition of new estate areas, the National Parks and Wildlife Service demonstrates an excellent scientific approach and establishment planning, including examining current and potential landscape restoration capacity and corridors,
- The NPW Act provides clear objectives for land within its jurisdiction, including for conversion of public and private lands to the National Parks, and biodiversity and conservation objectives,
- Through the National Parks and Wildlife Service's management of Crown land, employment, education and training opportunities are provided for Aboriginal people,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service has a large number of co-management areas and hand back agreements throughout the State,
- More recently, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is encouraging new tourism and economic opportunities at appropriate locations and within suitable environmental controls.

Current Weaknesses within the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its management processes

- Greater consideration of economic and social issues should be given during the assessment process when new lands are being added to the reserve system,
- There is a need for improved analysis of total and ongoing resourcing needs when new reserves are being created,
- In some areas, community consultation relating to proposed acquisitions could be improved particularly with park neighbours, Aboriginal community members and local government. However, there are some examples of good practice in this area,
- In some circumstances, better external communications are required to provide the timely and transparent display of management intentions. In some cases, there is also room to improve community knowledge of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's delivery of management objectives such as successes in fire management and wild dog management,
- As part of the Regional Forests Agreement processes some lands were converted from State Forests (only after timber harvesting), whilst some areas were acquired for increased recreational purposes which may be at odds with conservation and reserve values,
- At times, improved analysis could be made of the broader ecosystem values,

- Sometimes, particularly with private treaty sale, there is limited or no stakeholder consultation and transparency during the purchase of a particular property to add to the reserve system. In certain instances, this is at the direct request of the vendor.
- Social/cultural heritage assessments prior to purchase, have not always included consultation with the local Aboriginal community,
- At times there appears to be a lack of consultation with local authorities (including local Councils and Local Aboriginal Land Councils) during the referral process for new reserves. Adding to this, there are sometimes differing views amongst Aboriginal groups,
- With respect to the purchase of private property, some (but not all) of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believe that the National Parks and Wildlife Service should bid in the open market if a property is being put to auction. The rationale behind this argument being that it would create a more level playing field and that other potential purchasers would not be left frustrated (eg Toorale and Wilga in the Western region),
- Additions to the reserve system result in a reduced rate base for local governments which can impact on Council/Shire operations,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also acknowledges that Voluntary Conservation Agreements created over private lands may have an impact on local government rates. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recognises that in some cases local government may also actively mandate or actively encourage ratepayer contributions to biodiversity conservation,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that other land use options, particularly mining, can take precedence over the reserve establishment during the referencing process.

Opportunities for improvement with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its management processes

- There is the potential for the classification of new areas to include a mixture of conservation or other values,
- Greater consideration could be given to looking at the classification of conservation areas in a landscape context including important areas in conservation areas and non high-conservation value areas in other management processes (eg existing ownership),
- The potential for greater use of Part 11 assessment process to potentially separate and sell off non high-conservation value lands before their gazettal as national parks,
- The referral process could be widened to involve consultation with Local Government, neighbours and Local Aboriginal Land Councils prior to the declaration of new reserves,
- The ability to revoke non-national park worthy lands/sections that are non-restorable or more appropriately utilised for other purposes is not often considered,
- Better assessment of any increase in biodiversity values/benefits in conversion of private land to the National Parks estate, using broader biodiversity values,
- Greater consideration could be given to the potential for large scale restoration to create new conservation nodes (particularly with regard to climate change issues),
- There may be revegetation/restoration opportunities using carbon credit process requiring possible legislative amendments,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council acknowledges the financial contribution from the Australian Government National Reserves System Fund and from the NSW Environment Trust for new area acquisitions and would encourage the NSW government to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government to improve resourcing for acquisition and especially for ongoing management of new reserves.

In relation to the Inquiry's specific terms of reference, The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council offers the following comments:

Terms of Reference 1: The conversion of Crown Land, State Forests and agricultural land into National Park estate or other types of conservation areas, including the:

- a) Process of conversion and the assessment of potential operational, economic, social and environmental impacts.***
- b) Operational, economic, social and environmental impacts after conversion, and in particular, impacts upon neighbours of public land and upon Local Government***

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that there is an ongoing need to maintain priority in securing high conservation value lands on offer (particularly in the Western and Central Divisions of NSW),
- The NSW National Parks Reserve Establishment Plan was prepared in 2008. It would now be timely to undertake a state of play audit to review this plan. Such a review could also examine the full range of governance/conservation mechanisms available to preserve ecosystems that are currently not well represented in the State's reserve system,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service does not consistently engage with local government, Aboriginal representative groups (eg. Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Elders groups), neighbours and key land management agencies during conversion and assessment of public/private lands – particularly in identifying National Park boundaries and potential opportunities for use of 'gateway' (Part 11) lands – with particular engagement on socio-economic assessment of benefits and impacts of new reserves. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council acknowledges that this is often justified on the basis of commercial confidentiality with the vendor,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recommends that the National Parks and Wildlife Service review its existing Reserve Establishment Guidelines to include improved socio-economic assessments of new and potential land acquisitions, including an analysis of the benefits and potential adverse impacts of adding additional land to the park and reserve system and how these impacts are best addressed,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that greater consideration of economic and social issues might be given during the plan of management development process.
- There are many instances of good practice in National Parks and Wildlife Service land acquisition processes. The National Parks and Wildlife Service would benefit from a formal review of recent examples of these with a view to examining key learnings and developing ways to improve current processes and translate this into policy and procedures within the Reserve Establishment Guidelines,
- Both during and after conversion, the National Parks and Wildlife Service needs to build on current cross tenure management approach for natural resource land management,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service needs to better report on and communicate its land management achievements,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council encourages better use of Part 11 of the NPW Act to enable classification of areas of differing conservation values, during both conversion and acquisition.

c) That the following cases be considered into relation to Terms and Reference 1(a) and 1(b):

i) River Red Gum State Forests in Southern Riverina

During conversion

- The assessments and independent consultation processes were well run,
- Generous compensation packages were provided,
- In addition to environmental outcomes, there were positive Aboriginal community and heritage conservation outcomes,
- The establishment followed twenty plus years of work to assess and protect under-represented forest types.

Post conversion - operation

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council applauds the retention of management and technical expertise from previous management regimes such as Forests NSW staff,
- There has been good ongoing consultation by the National Parks and Wildlife Service staff with the local community eg. with adjoining landholders regarding fencing assistance and negotiations with landholders on current Public Leasing Agreements (PLA's),
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is concerned that a Plan of Management has yet to be prepared given that such a large commitment of public resources was involved. Through the plan of management process there will be improved transparency and opportunity for input from stakeholders concerning the management and future direction of the park. An adopted plan of management would also have provided greater context for the already adopted River Red Gum Tourism Plan.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council would encourage the National Parks and Wildlife Service to prepare draft plans of management within 12-14 months of gazettal of any major new park.

ii) Native Hardwood State Forests in Northern NSW

With respect to this case study, there are no current members of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council that are familiar with the conversion of these forests into the National Park estate .

Post conversion - operation

- Invasive species management in highly disturbed state forests and logging trails have translated as a significant financial and management burden for the National Parks and Wildlife Service,
- There have been substantially increased opportunities for more engagement with local Aboriginal communities regarding community use with social and cultural values being maintained,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is concerned about the potential implications for national park areas due to sawlog shortfalls in these regions.

iii) Yanga Station in Wakool Shire

During conversion

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service undertook a comprehensive assessment and understanding of land systems to enable boundary planning and appropriate classification of station lands,
- Very good community consultation occurred during the establishment of the then Yanga National Park and State Conservation Area, and now part of Murrumbidgee Valley National Park and State Conservation Area.

Post conversion - operation

- The 2007 reselling of cropping land (4 areas totalling 6,890ha) following property purchase was well received by the local community,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is concerned that a plan of management has not been commenced in a timely fashion. New infrastructure has been built in arguably inappropriate locations and a Tourism Action Plan has been released without context,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council members have first hand knowledge of local community benefits re tourism and local economy benefits from the creation of this national park. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is also aware that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has also adopted a policy to purchase goods and services locally which is applauded,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council sees the fact that the NPWS pays Livestock Health and Pest Authority rates as a positive,
- There has been improved water management for ecological outcomes,
- There has been substantial resources applied to pest management to effectively address pre-existing issues,

- It is acknowledged that the local government has been disadvantaged by the loss of rates previously paid for the Yanga property, The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recommends that the National Parks and Wildlife Service should consider potential options to ameliorate the impacts on local government income when creating substantial new parks such as the former Yanga National Park and State Conservation Area.

iv) Toorale Station in Bourke Shire

During conversion

- There was good engagement of downstream users regarding water infrastructure issues,
- The purchase of water rights was supported by the community at the time of their purchase,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council questions whether the right mix of classification for the former station as both National Park and State Conservation Area was appropriate,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that greater scientific evaluation for suitability of restoration should have occurred before parts of the station were gazetted,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that the local Aboriginal communities are very happy with the heritage outcomes that have arisen from the purchase of the Toorale Station and that excellent social outcomes have been achieved,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also expresses concern regarding the social impacts of land use conversions, for example where farming families have moved away from local communities or where impacts are felt on local schools etc.

Post conversion - operation

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recommends that the National Parks and Wildlife Service be asked to consider ways to ameliorate impacts on local government income when future purchases of this scale are being considered eg employing local government as a contractor for certain services or contributing to access road maintenance,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recognises the fact that the National Parks and Wildlife Service pays Livestock Health and Pest Authority rates as a positive,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council understands the community concern over the purchase of infrastructure and decommissioning of dams and the implications for failing to deliver environmental water flows as promised by the Australian Government,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that a very good Statement of Interim Management Intent (SIMI) has been prepared. However, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the reserve requires the timely and transparent preparation of a Plan of Management to commence immediately and should include Aboriginal community input,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is concerned that environment water flows need to be shepherded downstream to provide environmental benefits,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that pest species management programs have been effectively put in place,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council has concerns over the very large tracts of laser levelled land that needs to be revegetated, restored and managed appropriately,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that Aboriginal co management is a significant cultural heritage positive for the future management of this national park.

Term of Reference 2 – Adherence to management practices on all public land

Term of Reference 2 was considered by the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council under the different management areas of fire, weeds and pest animal species.

Generally, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council members felt that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has a higher level of community engagement and involvement in park and reserve management than other public land managers.

Many legislative provisions (eg the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, National Parks and Wildlife Act, Rural Fires Act, Rural Lands Protection Act, Protection of the Environment Operations Act and relevant provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act) apply equally to the NPWS as they apply to private land holders.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also felt that there are many legislative obligations that public land managers such as NPWS have to comply with that private landholders don't have to comply with including Aboriginal consultation, native title, audit and public accountability requirements eg annual reporting, preparation of plans of management and governance requirements.

Fire management

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service has exactly the same requirements and obligations regarding fire management practices as private landholders. However, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is far more transparent and accountable in these matters than other land managers,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council acknowledges the significant resources, knowledge and a high degree of sophistication within the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding fire management at a state, regional and park level,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that all National Parks and Wildlife Service fire strategies and policies are publically available,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service keeps abreast of interstate and international best practices and is twice as successful as other land managers in proactively managing and undertaking hazard reduction operations and preventing the escape of fires from its boundaries,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service provides leadership and resources to other public and private landowners and has a mobile incident management capacity with resources that can be deployed anywhere within the state, including the Western Division, if and when required,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service works closely with the Rural Fire Service,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is appreciative of the regular National Parks and Wildlife Service reports on its fire management programs and draws attention to the membership of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council which includes a member with expertise and experience in bush fire management (currently the Deputy Commissioner of the Rural Fire Service),
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that fire records indicate that double the number of fires come onto national parks than those that escape from park and believes that this is directly related to the National Parks and Wildlife Service strategic hazard reduction program and rapid response capability,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council acknowledges that up to 75% of total hazard reduction in NSW is undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, when only 25% of the fire prone land in NSW is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service,
- There is close cooperation between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its neighbours through the maintenance of tracks, trails and asset protection infrastructure as well as assistance in recovery with fencing assistance and last resort emergency assistance.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has significant resources, including approximately 1000 trained fire-fighters that can be deployed to an incident anywhere in the State, nationally or internationally if required.

Weed management

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is aware that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is a good neighbour and provides significant fencing assistance to neighbouring landholders despite not being required to as the Dividing Fences Act does not bind the Crown,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that a coordinated cross-government and cross-tenure weed management response is required in areas where threatened ecosystems are impacted by weed invasion (from areas under different tenure management),
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council understands that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has significant resources applied to weed management in accordance with priorities identified within publicly available Plans of Management and Regional Pest Management Strategies. Landscape level resourcing according to need is however inconsistent across the state.
- In some cases, the effectiveness of the National Parks and Wildlife Service weed management program is impacted by neighbouring public land management practices or lack thereof,
- A major commitment of \$36 million per annum is currently spent on pest animal and weed management in the reserve system across the state,
- There has been detailed weed management planning through the preparation of Regional Pest Management Strategies which involved extensive community consultation throughout NSW,
- Regional and state-wide pest management forums were held in 2011. These forums identified the need for better whole of government coordination of weed management,
- Some weeds that are problems in an ecological context are not always a significant problem in an agricultural context (including control of garden escapes),
- Comprehensive assessment and analysis of weed populations, including projected costs of management, should be included in the initial assessment of potential new reserve acquisitions to help guide the decision framework,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council acknowledges that some weed issues were inherited as less ecologically 'pure' but restorable lands are transferred or inherited by the National Parks and Wildlife Service,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also acknowledges that the National Parks and Wildlife Service plays an effective role in weed management, but that the intensive management of weeds on public land is not always as practical or appropriate as it is for private landholdings; eg. weeds which spread into rugged or remote areas with poor access, or areas where non-target impacts are difficult to manage (eg drinking water catchments, endangered ecological communities etc).

Pest animal species management

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council recognises that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has been heavily constrained in its management of feral horses due to the ban on aerial culling, and in its control of deer in some areas due to community pressures from animal welfare groups and other political restraints,
- There is positive, collaborative work occurring across tenures with respect to feral pig and feral goat management,
- More research funding is required to assist in the control of feral cats (both feral species and "wild" or escaped domestic cats),
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council considers that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is undertaking a successful program to control wild dogs and foxes. However, serious issues result from absentee landowners and the inability to influence what is happening on neighbouring land.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities should have powers to enter private property to control pest species,

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service provides innovative leadership through trialling of new pest control methods, including the innovative M44 ejector for effective baiting of foxes and wild dogs and new target specific goat and deer control techniques,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is of the view that funding for the Fox Threat Abatement Program (Fox TAP) should continue given the success of the current program,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that new mechanisms, based on scientific research, for the control of rabbits are required,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council strongly believes that any pest species control program should:
 - be based on scientific research,
 - be well planned and managed and be adequately and consistently resourced,
 - be strategic, and
 - follow a whole of landscape approach (not limited by tenure).
- The lead authority in this area, particularly for coordinating cross tenure programs and research, should be the Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Term of Reference 3 - Models for Management of Public Lands with conservation outcomes and utilising 'sustainable use'

Under NPW Act (clause 2A), the National Parks and Wildlife Service primary objective is as follows:

- (1a) the conservation of nature, including, but not limited to, the conservation of:
 - (i) habitat, ecosystems and ecosystem processes, and
 - (ii) biological diversity at the community, species and genetic levels, and
 - (iii) landforms of significance, including geological features and processes, and
 - (iv) landscapes and natural features of significance including wilderness and wild rivers,
 - (1b) the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, and
 - (ii) places of social value to the people of New South Wales, and
 - (iii) places of historic, architectural or scientific significance,
 - (1c) fostering public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation,
 - (1d) providing for the management of land reserved under this Act in accordance with the management principles applicable for each type of reservation.
 - (2) The objects of this Act are to be achieved by applying the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
 - (3) In carrying out functions under this Act, the Minister, the Director-General and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are to give effect to the following:
 - (a) the objects of this Act,
 - (b) the public interest in the protection of the values for which land is reserved under this Act and the appropriate management of those lands.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council strongly supports the existing National Parks Reserve System and current legislation,
 - The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also strongly supports the objectives identified in the NPW Act,
 - There are many differing models for public land management for conservation, particularly internationally. In many cases however, these models apply to highly modified landscapes and are not appropriate for the high conservation values and largely unmodified reserves in NSW,
 - The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council notes that the National Parks and Wildlife Service already has an obligation under the NPW Act to manage its estate for ecological sustainability,

- Under the plan of management provisions of the NPW Act (ie s.72), the National Parks and Wildlife Service has a 'triple bottom line' responsibility to consider in preparing a plan of management (eg Section 72AA (1) (r)-(u))
- Under Section 72AA and Section 151A of the NPW Act, there is also flexibility and scope for multiple use of some areas within the parks estate eg the adaptive reuse of structures and use of modified landscapes as long as the primary objective is for conservation of key reserve values, and this brings benefits to local communities.
- Part 4A and Sections 86 and 87 of NPW Act (and also Section 52.4 of the Land Rights Act) provide for joint management of national parks and reserves and for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council strongly supports these provisions,
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council accepts that the existing system is not perfect. However, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that the current system is robust, delivers an appropriate range of conservation management models for the parks estate for the conservation of nature and that other management models are appropriate for other types of public lands.

Term of Reference 4 – Any other related matters

- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council believes that there is a need for more improved and rigorous regional, tenure-free planning for:
 - environmental protection and conservation
 - recreational use
 - pest management
 - fire management and
 - infrastructure provision.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council also believes there is a need for strategic cross-tenure land use planning at a State and Regional level to address broad land use issues that may impact on conservation values of park estate.
- The Government's green paper relating to the future of the State's planning system was released subsequent to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council's extraordinary meeting. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council would strongly support both improved strategic planning at the regional level and also improvements to the planning system to provide local Councils and the State with the ability to better analyse cumulative impacts or new developments rather than just project specific impacts.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council appreciates the opportunity to make this submission to the Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 inquiry into the management of public land in NSW I would be pleased to clarify or elaborate on any of the points made in this submission. I can be contacted

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Jones BTP (Hons) MBA MPIA FAICD
 Chair,
National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms Suzanne Jones: Appointed as person with experience and expertise in rural and regional development and planning issues in July 2009. Ms Jones was nominated by the Planning Institute of Australia, NSW Division. Ms Jones was appointed as Chair of the Council in February 2012 and her term ends in June 2013.

Mr Ken Prendergast: Appointed as a representative of a Regional Advisory Committee representing the Southern Ranges since February 2006. Mr Prendergast has previously been involved in local government in his local area and is the Chair of Regional Development Southern Inland. Mr Prendergast's term ends in June 2013.

Assistant Commissioner Dominic Lane: Appointed as a person with expertise and experience in bush fire management in December 2010. Assistant Commissioner Lane was nominated by the NSW Rural Fire Service and his term will end in November 2014.

Dr Ronnie Harding: Appointed as a person with expertise and experience in environmental education and community involvement in environmental education, since February 2005. Dr Harding was originally nominated by the NSW Council on Environmental Education and her term will end in February 2013.

Dr Michael Dunlop: Appointed as a person with scientific qualifications in areas associated with the conservation of nature since July 2009. Dr Dunlop is a Research Scientist and Land, Water, Biodiversity and Climate Analyst with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and his term will end in June 2013.

Ms Glenda Chalker: Appointed as a nominee of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee since November 2006 and reappointed in December 2011. Ms Chalker's term ends in June 2013.

Mr Robin Heath: Appointed as a nominee of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee since October 2010 and his term ends in September 2014.

Ms Fiona Meller: Appointed as a representative of a Regional Advisory Committee representing the Blue Mountains. Ms Meller was appointed in December 2011 and her term will end in June 2013.

Ms Sharon Veale: Appointed as a person with qualifications in cultural heritage research, Ms Veale was appointed in December 2011 and her term will end in June 2013.

Ms Tracey Carpenter: Appointed as a person with experience in planning and local government, nominated by the Local Government and Shires Association. Ms Carpenter was appointed in December 2011 and her term will end in June 2013.

Dr David Butcher: Appointed as a person with scientific qualifications in areas associated with the conservation of nature. Dr Butcher was appointed in December 2011 and his term will end in June 2013.

Mrs Marie Russell: Appointed as a representative of a Regional Advisory Committee representing the Western Rivers. Marie has been Chairman of the Upper Darling Advisory Committee until the PWG restructure in 2009 and was then invited to join the Western Rivers RAC. She has a broad range of experience through her representation on several boards and committees focusing on natural resource, environmental management, pest control, the protection of natural & cultural heritage conservation and developing policies for these organisations. In 2006 Marie received an Order of Australia medal in recognition of her work with local & regional communities and her contribution to the environment & conservation. Mrs Russell was appointed in March 2012 and her term will end in March 2014.