

**Submission
No 404**

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

Organisation: Daroo Orange Urban Landcare Group

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National Parks and Nature Reserves have been conserved for the the preservation of the natural environment and its passive enjoyment by the citizens of Australia. These areas are vital for so many reasons relating to the environment and for people's well-being that they must be kept that way and not sacrificed as a playground for inappropriate activities. For many years conservation-minded people have done wonders in preserving special areas for these reasons and now regard such places as sacrosanct. Already their future is in jeopardy with the threat of hunting and shooting in National Parks, and now the threat is even greater with the move to allow high impact recreation. Public lands contain in so many cases the only examples of the native vegetation of our land, the vast of majority having been destroyed in the pursuit of agriculture, towns and associated infrastructure. There are many thousands of hectares of degraded land that could be purchased for the activities the Shooters and Fishers Party wants which can be developed for their pastimes. In the meantime there are thousands of people who need the values provided by our parks, values also needed as habitat for conserving our Australian flora and fauna, for biodiversity protection, and for other critical ecosystem services. These protected areas have been fought hard for over the past years and are regarded as precious and irreplaceable and should not be tampered with under any circumstances. Our landcare group is horrified at the suggestions in the terms of reference for this enquiry especially as we have been working for the past ten years to protect and rehabilitate a small parcel of Crown Land in the city of Orange for all of the above values, and have been funded through State and Commonwealth grants to carry out these works. It would make a mockery of the intentions of the State government at the time (most recent grant received in 2011) which was for this specific purpose, if the current government would allow the destruction over vast areas of what we have been able to conserve in our local council precinct.