

**Submission
No 83**

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

Name: Mr Bernie Foran

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Mr Robert Brown MLC
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Legislative Council, Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

In the free enterprise capitalist society which has prevailed since 1788 I consider that I am a share holder, as do all other citizens, in the continuing need to generate income and fiscal benefits. In summary make a profit or your broke, gone bust and out of business.

Since the creation of the Millewa National Park 1st July 2010, a previously viable and sustainable profitable Forestry NSW Government Dept which generated cash flow of \$72 million annually to Treasury, has now provided the need for Shareholders to not only offset the loss of \$72 million but as a further financial burden pay the salary and wages of National Park Managers, staff, employees, sub-contractors and the purchase and maintenance of a fleet of 4WD passenger vehicles, utilities, boats, motors and heavy vehicles of many designs through additional taxes.

There has been income derived through the purchase of Fire wood permits. At a Murray Shire Council meeting at Moama in March this year an Address given by the Regional Manager, he stated 1100 permits were issued in 2010 . Assuming each was for the Maximum of \$150, generates \$65k. I personally purchased two at \$12.50 each. Would suggest income \$50 - \$60k. Where did the extra dollars come from to make up the \$72 million made when a Forestry NSW Gov Dept??
The Tax Payer, me personally and every other citizen/shareholder.

In the NRC Recommendations Report Dec 2009 considerable emphasis was given to the indigenous local communities and to the impending increase in Tourism numbers. Little was given to non indigenous local communities other than to confirm Quote many also have a deep mistrust of Government Management of National Parks and this needs to be overcome for the benefit of both the community and the management of any new Parks Unquote.

And little has benefited the Community other than Cash Termination payments for private Forestry workers. Regarding two years of National Park Management Practices the possible initiatives might include :-

Small Business opportunities for Tour Operators
Accommodation and Transport Service Providers.
None of the initiatives have yet to happen and the Park is not in the same accessible condition for Fire Extinction needs. Weed control practice must be improved for the security of residents building infrastructure in Mathoura in Fire danger periods.

Environmental management is expensive and getting more so. It requires recovery or purchase of environmental water, construction of water infrastructure, fire management, real-time bird breeding support by habitat manipulation and watering, and maintenance of access and safety in fire and wet times. It also requires considerable local knowledge of issues such as micro water management, prediction of fire response, and experimentation with adaptive environmental management. Any change in management must be able to meet this cost and continue to access the local knowledge and rapid attendance by locals to address issues such as bushfires. Considerable expertise in managing the forests resides in the staff of Forests NSW and should be carried over to any subsequent forest managers.

How can management meet these and other costs when no income is being derived. The continuation of National Park management practices must be expanded to reinstate sustainable timber harvesting as managed by Forestry NSW.

No company would be able to continue trading while incurring such financial losses. Voluntary liquidation, Bankruptcy or closure would happen. Unfortunately as a Share Holder myself along with all other citizens will become financially embarrassed by excessive taxes being imposed to support an unviable, unsustainable National Parks system.

Any business must provide a service that generates sufficient income to meet costs and have a profit margin. Without a profit the business must review operating procedures/benefits/staff levels and customer needs or meet the inevitable – closure. A review of the of the present system of National Parks procedures/profitability performance would reveal that it is bankrupt.

Regardless of the present Global Fiscal Climate it is political suicide to continue the tax payer funded operations of the National Parks system.

I am yet to receive any visual dividend that was not available when managed by Forestry NSW. National Parks are not and will not under present practices meet Fiscal Capitalistic requirements.

Forwarded for your information and discussion.

Yours Sincerely

19-7-12.