

**Submission
No 411**

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

Name: Mr Steve Fittler

Date received: 11/09/2012

Gloray Pastoral Company Pty Ltd

Steve & Elise Fittler

ABN: 12000846695



The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000
31/08/2012.

Re Management of Public Land in NSW (inquiry)

Dear Sir/Madam

1. In November 2002 a wildfire that started in Single National Park, destroyed approximately 12km of the boundary fence between us. The fire was unattended by NPWS in its early stages. The fire trails in the park were narrow and not cleared properly. Fire Fighters were unable to access the fire in the park due to noncompliance to OH and S regulations and there was no fire plan in place at the time.
2. We were promised by the Minister Mr Bob Debus 50% of the total replacement cost of the fence including the removal of any trees likely to fall on the fence. We accepted this offer on the 10th May 2004. However, NPWS have ignored this promise assuming supply of fencing materials equates to 50%. We are prepared to clear on our side of the fence. **If** they would clear on their side of the fence and supply materials as promised by the Minister, this would give us a fire break, fence protection and a safe workplace for fence erection and ongoing maintenance. This would fulfill their 50% responsibility.
3. NPWS have threatened to impound our stock if found in the park. We have had to reduce our stocking numbers in the paddocks affected by the destroyed fencing next to the park which involves 200 cows that have been on aijstment for 10 years at \$50,000 per year.
4. Because there has been no resolution for 10 years we have huge problems with ferral pigs and goats coming out of the park and a huge fire fuel buildup in our paddocks next to the park.
5. To come to an agreement we need NPWS to honour Mr Debus's commitment. If this is not possible we would be happy to supply the fencing materials and NPWS erect and maintain the fence. The responsibility of Workplace Health and Safety would then be with the NPWS instead of us.
6. We are wanting to come to an agreement. A long term resolution is needed. We do not want the new fence destroyed in the next fire. Implementing Mr Debus's commitment also protects the park from fires coming from adjoining private land and between us we can maintain the environmental integrity of the Single National Park.

Yours Sincerely
Steve and Elise Fittler