

Submission  
No 47

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

The terms of reference for this inquiry seems to be highly skewed in favour of economic interests and fail to adequately cover the importance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to provide resilience for our natural environment.

We need to be protecting what biodiversity is left. The 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics shows we have a net loss of biodiversity. At the G20 Summit this year the UN states that if we fail to do something about our rampant use of the planets resources we are at a tipping point that will create undesirable consequences that will negatively impact on our future both environmentally and economically. This is not the time to try and go backwards in conservation measures like this inquiry seems to be set out to accomplish. We need to be increasing conservation measures.

The NSW government is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment whereby the Australian Government and all State Governments agreed to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas, and while the NSW government has made significant progress to date in this regard, many biogeographic subregions remain under represented.

Science proves that protected areas is the most effective way of conserving biodiversity. I have a conservation covenant on my property and logging in the State Forest near my property is proof that animals need areas that are protected. I had barking owls move on to my property just after the logging occurred. I later found out that there was reported illegal logging of an endangered ecological community, food trees for squirrel gliders and habitat trees for the barking owl were removed. I have witnessed on my own property that is protected the difference in health of the habitat and and the animals.

This sort of inquiry happened in the USA where they opened up so called conservation logging while independent scientists said it would do more damage than good. It was all done to support the timber industry not a good outcome for biodiversity or the environment.

The management of national parks is undertaken by the skilled professional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and supported by a large number of community volunteers who take pride in these special areas. The NPWS has considerable expertise in feral animal control, invasive weed management and fire management.

My cousin was shot in a hunting accident by his father when he was fourteen years old and killed. I have experienced recreational hunters in my neighbourhood before and they tend to leave trash and do not seem to care for no trespassing signs. Just last week I had visitors from overseas and I told them about the new regulation to allow recreational hunting in National Parks. I really wanted them to see Nightcap National Park but when I told them it was one of the National Parks that was to allow hunting they said they didn't want to go there. I will not visit National Parks that allow so called feral animal control where recreational hunters are allowed to shoot. If my cousin can be accidentally killed than so can visitors to the parks. It happened three times in New Zealand last year. Leave the feral animal control to the National Parks experts and keep the cowboys out of our public lands meant to protect our natural resources.

The effective management of national parks for conservation is hampered by budget pressure and demands to manage and provide infrastructure for an increasing number of recreational activities such as hunting and horse riding.

The economic value of our National Parks are not how many trees we can log in whatever name you might want to call it or allowing cattle or other destructive activities such as horse riding. The economic value of these are in preserving our natural habitat that has been fragmented and destroyed by development, logging and other extractive uses. Just because the timber industry has over logged our forest resources doesn't mean you should destroy our public national parks so they can keep making money using tax payers dollars. It make great economic sense for a few loggers but is a huge loss to the rest of us. Forest NSW already operates at a huge loss costing taxpayers. With this history it is reasonable to say that allowing logging in our National Parks, State Conservation Areas or Reserves does not make economic or even common sense in protecting biodiversity. The more you log, the more space for weeds to take control which is evident in our State Forests and logging done on private land.

The best use of our National Parks is to leave them alone so the flora and fauna protected there has a fair go. The Koala, one of Australia's icons was just listed as endangered. If the land has been mismanaged by industrial logging where the timber industry is running out of trees then it's time to retool and transition till the forests grow back in another 50 years. This happened in the USA where people were retrained in different fields and can happen here.

National Parks are a tourist drawcard and by allowing hunting in National Parks, businesses around Nightcap National Park already missed out from a carload of people wanting to spend money because of this new regulation. I will not put my friends at risk by visiting National Parks that allow hunting.

I appreciate you taking on board my comments and concerns when it comes time to decide the fate of our National Parks, Reserves and State Conservation Areas. Just look at the title and that should give you an idea of what they are meant for.

Regards,

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