

**Submission  
No 458**

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

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## **Inquiry into the Management of Public Land in New South Wales**

We are a second generation beekeeping entity. Our business was started as a hobby in 1966 and became a full time career in 1976. The foundation knowledge was begun in 1966 and still continues to grow today. We believe that our knowledge is always evolving as is our environment in which we work our bees.

When we work our bees in National Parks, State Forests, Livestock Health and Pest Authority TSRs and private land we do not leave a footprint. We are very conscious of the environment and try to leave it in the same state that it was in as when we arrived.

Some of these apiary sites have been used by us since the mid 1970's.

We have been excluded from bee sites that were taken from us by policy change in the mid to late 1970's (Kosioscio National Park – Tantangarra Dam area ).There may be a chance of us getting those apiary sites back if we had paper work from that time ( 35 years ago) we don't.

We have several NSW National Parks and Wildlife and Forestry NSW apiary sites. We have had problems when dealing with them and expect that we will continue to do so. Some of the problems are:

- Constant change of office controlling sites –ie: Narrandera apiary sites were Narrandera, Yanco, Deniliquin, and Forbes.
- Name changes of sites (obviously trying to get us to lose sites) ie: Narrandera State Forest site we didn't know we had but no record of our site in Gillenbah Forest Area.  
Two (2) MIA State Forest sites became Murrumbidgee Valley National Park (2) and Two (2) Narrandera State Forest sites became Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park (2)
- Policy of GPS of site- can't move away from designated set down spot even though feature may change on site ie: shade may not be adequate for bees any more if due to fallen trees.
- Policy of not being able to maintain site ie: not able to mow or remove fallen tree limbs to make set down area suitable for bees
- Roads and access problems- roads not being maintained to a suitable standard
- Debris on sites left from logging or other type of operations are a problem ( had a bee site being used as a gravel/rock dump after the road going past the site was maintained for power line access)
- We are having problems with pests that are not being controlled : ie wild horses ( they can do damage to beehives)
- Change of policy on renewal of site dates change and we are often not notified as to when site fees are due. Again if not paid for sites can be lost to us and also to industry.
- Hazard reduction is not adequate and forms a threat to our beehives

Prior to when the Narrandera State Forest and MIA State Forest,( River Red Gum forests), went across to Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and became part of a new National Park (Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park and Murrumbidgee Valley National Park) extreme River Red Gum logging took place. This affected the floral source for our bees and thus our honey production and income. It also left a lot of debris that is a hazard and that technically we are unable to remove or clear as it is now part of the National Park environment.

By turning State Forests into National Parks it limits the accessibility of these natural areas to a select few. It also increases the potential for a disaster such as bush fires to occur more frequently as the undergrowth is more likely to be thicker.

We would like to be able to maintain our apiary sites by mowing, clearing debris etc.

By maintaining these apiary sites in State Forests, National Parks and Livestock Health and Pest Authority TSRs we can then help reduce the fire and pest hazards of those areas. This then makes our work environment neater and more easily accessible for us. It also helps with safe work practices.

Some areas are affected by floods at times, and this can leave quite a lot of debris. Being able to move or remove this helps both us with our bees and also the normal environment of the affected area.

We would also like to be able to change the GPS set down point if the need arises.

David & Wendy Mumford