INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Date received: Name suppressed 30/08/2012

Raitally

I am appalled by any intentions to further weaken protection over our conservation areas in the state of NSW. Our catchments are dependent on the pristine environments required for clean water and air. These areas are essential to maintain the biodiversity of our natural environment.

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As a user of National Parks and concerned australian citizen I am appalled by any intentions to further weaken protection over our conservation areas in the state of NSW. Our catchments are dependent on the pristine environments required for clean water and air. These areas are essential to maintain the biodiversity of our natural environment.

The area where I live is surrounded by National Park. The scenic beauty and diversity in flora and fauna species attracts thousands of tourists to our region. This in turn results in significant economic benefits to our local communities and surrounding region.

The educational and social benefits to our community, particularly to children and young people are priceless. Our local primary school children, while isolated in many ways, benefit in learning from the stimulating environment around them. Many of our local young people have progressed to obtaining science degrees. They have grown up in an environment that respects Australian values including outdoor recreation, cultural diversity and Australian aboriginal heritage.

Our community are proud of our National Parks and participate in activities to support their safety and protection as well as surveys such as locating and counting the threatened and endangered species habitating or breeding there. We seek the expertise of Parks officers who are qualified and experienced in fire management strategies and in the management of invasive weeds introduced from surrounding areas or gardens. There is a special cooperative appreciation of shared values and engagement between National Parks workers and users and surrounding communities.

I am very disappointed to learn there is a biased inquiry underway. Any panel assigned to make decisions on the management of our National Parks MUST consist of conservationists. It appears this is not the case. The committee members are against the principles of conservation protection and lean towards economic values. The case studies chosen by the committee are inappropriate and inadequate. I am very disappointed this appears to be a flawed process and will not reflect sincere values to effectively address and sustain the needs of future generations of Australians,

National Parks parks management and Park users. I am extremely disappointed in this state government are continually disregarding their duty of care for the environment and health of existing communities.