

Submission
No 287

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee.

Given that Crown Land (especially the TSR network) frequently has areas of high value (ecologically) remnant native vegetation, Crown Land management should be heading towards utilisation as an ecological resource rather than a source of fundraising for state coffers.

A comparison of native vegetation reserves, between NSW and VIC should leave the current batch of Politicians feeling very uncomfortable indeed; NSW is very sparse. See attached.

Whereas the previous generations (who cleared land on a massive scale) didn't 'know' as such, you will be remembered as a generation who 'knew', but did nothing, and in fact, based on the proposed re-working of the Native Veg Act, will be the generation who sold (philosophically speaking) the state's ecology for a quick buck or two.

As such, rather than utilisation to make money, we should develop Crown Land as ecological reserves, (it would be easier to utilise Crown land for ecological purposes rather than buy / claw back privately owned land).

We should gradually reduce the leasing of TSR network, and, over time, ease the reserves into a connected network of statewide National Parks. Which can be built up and added to, over time. This process would start with the 'resting' of TSR's from stock, then leasing refusals, then change of management from stock reserve to significant native vegetation location.

Like the Snowy Mountains Scheme, perhaps you will then be remembered favourable, rather than short-sighted (4 year term) and money-grabbing (\$sell anything to make money).

That's my thought, and that's where my vote will lay. By changing the use of TSR's you will lose what 100 farmers+/- who leased plots, but you'll gain green voters. No real skin off your nose. Remember, farmers are a vocal minority, but they, as I, only have one vote each.

All the best,