

The Committee Secretary,
Select Committee on the Recent Australian Bushfires,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600.

Dear Sir/Madam,

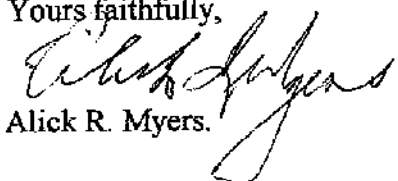
Re the request for submissions my submission is as follows:-

One of the reasons for the devastation caused by the recent bushfires in the Kosciuzko National Park is the fact that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has too much land to effectively control their land with the staff and finance they have at their disposal. The problem is getting worse with the New South Wales Government grabbing more land for national parks each year. I often wonder why all this land? It is unproductive and most of the parks are covered with noxious weeds and it is the harbour for feral animal especially wild pigs which do considerable damage to the environment.

The glaring example of this is the land on the eastern foreshores of the Blowering Dam which formed part of the Blowering Station before the dam was constructed. The owner of the station paid many thousands of dollars getting rid of noxious weeds and was proud of the fact that St. Johns Wort was completely eradicated from his land. But look at the land now covered in noxious weeds; it is sheer neglect. This prime grazing land would have been very useful during the recent drought for stock agistment but the National Parks and Wildlife Service would not allow this to happen. It is the "dog in the manger" attitude, they have no use for the land and they don't want anyone else to use it for whatever purpose may be decided.

Finally, unless the National Parks and Wildlife Service is given the finance to provide the manpower and material to adequately maintain roads throughout the Kosciuzko National Park, conduct hazard reduction burning to reduce excess fuels during the cooler months and reintroduce controlled grazing, the land should be handed over to another government body such as the New South Wales State Forests employing local people who understand the overall situation in our forests and in particular the Kosciuzko National Park.

Yours faithfully,


Alick R. Myers.