

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our members are becoming increasingly worried and frustrated over the restrictions on recreational opportunities in the State Forests of NSW. This is especially true in NC coastal areas.

We feel the pressure placed on government by extremely vocal, well-funded and well-organised minority groups over its fauna and flora protection policy has skewed present forest management practices and is thus preventing full potential use of our Forests by the general public.

Many of the public rely on state land for their chosen recreation. Bee-keepers, 4WD users, fishers, fossickers and motorcycles have been excluded or severely restricted from operating in many former State Forests, now being national parks by previous agreements with NPWS.

Presently there is much local land that is being precluded from our use. While it is often hard to see why some areas were "declared surplus" by Forests NSW in the first place, we accept that this unwanted result is permanent and an effective "lock-out" prohibition for evermore.

This makes it even more vitally important to keep open and preserve what forest areas we have left.

Many of our members hold an "R" licence for feral animal control over State land from DPI/GLU and pay an annual fee after initial test and long-term training. We feel that our members, who are in the main very busy & in gainful employment, are losing traction over state forest management versus taxpayer-funded, extreme, vocal minority groups, associations and coalitions, always seeming to have the media spot-light and resultant kudos as the only true 'conservationists'.

We fully support wildlife conservation and renewable resources expansion with the local jobs it brings.

However we do feel that more co-operation between feral hunting Clubs (such as ours) and state forest management is warranted, so we can better mitigate the feral/invasive species animal threat, which can stealthily and adversely affect our quality of life, the viability of a renewable resource and the natural bush environment that we all love.

Yours sincerely.....(Mr) Rob Andrews, NZHC(Inc.) President, Lismore
2480.