



Title	Mr
First name	Daniel
Last name	McConell
I am making this submission as	General public
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>My Name is Daniel McConell, I live a life within an Aboriginal Society, the Aboriginal people who are all together and have always been together here on the South Coast of NSW.</p> <p>It is here on the NSW South Coast that we are together, we share our unique cultural association with these our special lands of Earth, a part of the stewardship of the State of NSW, where through the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, work together with the people towards our hopes and dreams of home, our Millennial Eden as one of life's true living paradises.</p> <p>This ancient, timeless place we call home is situated between Gerringong in the North, Batemans Bay in the South, Nerriga to the West and the Jervis Bay Territory that is surrounded by the NSW Marine Estate to the East. It is a place where the majestic cathedral canopy trees of The Great South East Forest shade over the beaches with the whitest sand in the world.</p>

My cultural association to this land in NSW is not a Birth Right, I am born from Queensland, I share my cultural association with the South Coast People and the NSW Aboriginal Owners from the NSW South Coast.

I am not a Member of any of the many NSW Aboriginal Land Councils, I am not Aboriginal and I do not reside in any of the many NSW Aboriginal Land Council Boundaries. The definition of both Aboriginal Owner and Aboriginal Registered Members are a part of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights for Aboriginal People living and residing in NSW and these Rights have been legislated within the Parliament of NSW as the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

The South Coast People's Native Title Claim has now been registered through the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993, I was present at the meeting in Narooma to initiate the formal due process that was required at the time to Register the South Coast People's Native Title Claim. I am not party to the South Coast People's Native Title Claim, the claim is for the Aboriginal Descendants of the identified Apical Ancestors that have been recorded in the NSW Colonial Records and are presented as Prima Facie evidence before the Commonwealth Native Title Tribunal.

My story within the Aboriginal Society of NSW, being the people of the NSW South Coast, came about through my adoption as a boy into an Aboriginal Family Group, a slow transition, through time and the Aboriginal Kinship System as it existed along the NSW South Coast and still exists today.

The Aboriginal Family Groups, today, live professional career driven lives in modern Australia, following in the footsteps of the family leaders, being the pioneers of corporate law, enterprise, industry and infrastructure development here along the South Coast of NSW.

The journeys of the ancestors through 'Country', tells the story of our modern Australian towns, villages and rural communities, here in NSW that through adaptation, resilience and productivity have made the South Coast of NSW what it is today.

A unique destination, a quality living environment, where we all share our dreams of tomorrow, today as residents, alongside visitors from all over NSW, around Australia and right across the Earth.

My youth, my coming of age, where the spirit of belonging through the South Coast story, through my Aboriginal family's totemic relationships, gave me a deep ecological understanding, a certain meaning to life and a gift that is ability to interpret the landscape from an Aboriginal perspective.

This spirit of Belonging allowed me to feel at home here, feel good being here on the NSW South Coast where I eventually fell in love, married a traditional woman as my wife, sharing her Birth Right, her customary law, her knowledge and developing through the birth of our children, a customary family connection that comes through obligation, responsible for seven children and three grand children and all that this allows for in 'Country'.

This personal development has benefited me and allows me to act in my power for the continuation of my people's cultural association to land in NSW, but it is not my power that continues the cultural association to land in NSW as an individual foreigner, I simply share the benefits of strong people, an ancestral journey with people from here not across the sea.

The cultural association to land in NSW of a people from the beginning of land in NSW. The Aboriginal people belonging to this land, the land of NSW on the South Coast must be seen today, through this Bushfire Enquiry, as First Sunrise People, meaning the People from the First Sunrise of Creation or the True People of the East.

I will at this point make it clear in fact, I am not an Aboriginal Person and I make no personal claim and am not party to any claim through Aboriginal birth as a right to land in NSW.

I am however a father of the YUWAAN Aboriginal Nation, the South Coast of NSW, I have a customary obligation to my Aboriginal Children, Grand Children and to the extended Kinship of Aboriginal People with a cultural association to land within the NSW South Coast.

I am a bridge between worlds, traditional Aboriginal Society, contemporary Aboriginal Society and the wider Socio Ecological System of the Southern Rivers Catchment of NSW.

I do not speak on behalf of any Aboriginal person with a cultural association to land in NSW, I am speaking from life experience and from listening to the Aboriginal teachers who have shared with me the customary, traditional and cultural knowledge that gives life to the anthropomorphic landscape known as 'Country' on the NSW South Coast.

I respect Country, I tread lightly in Country, I am also respectful of the Law of NSW and the civil equity that allows for justice and relief based on belief and Right in both Common Law and the enduring Guardianship of YUWAAN Customary Law, in the Peace of NSW, the Commonwealth of Australia and the Realm.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires

1.4 Any other matters

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