



Title	Mr
First name	Neil
Last name	Jones
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	Mr
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	Mr
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>The following is the text of an email I sent to Melinda Pavey MLA on 19th September 2019. It refers to feral animals as well as fire issues but the two are complimentary given the thrust of the email. I present it as a submission which indicates the context of the fires of 2019/20 and how they unfolded in our area. Fundamentally the message is to fund the National Parks Service to the extent that they can do the work expected of them.</p> <p>Hello Melinda,</p> <p>Like many other localities in NSW, we here in Rollands Plains, and more specifically Marlo Merrican have been suffering the drought. Thankfully a bit of rain has fallen.</p> <p>Two things are preying on my mind at the moment. A bushfire just one property away which has burnt out some 570 ha. of National Park and State Forest. This fire is referred to as the Cooperabung Range Road, Gum Scrub fire on the RFS site.</p>

The second thing is the incursion of feral pigs into our property and those of at least two other neighbours. These pigs have more than likely originated in the Kumbatine National Park.

Both these circumstances are exacerbated by under funding of National Parks in our State. There is no monitoring or maintenance of fire trails in this Park. When a fire occurs we are back to square one with old snagging trails and former State Forest tracks bulldozed to construct containment lines as if they never existed before the event. This work is carried out by Forests NSW staff because NPWS cannot fund their own firefighting resources.

Feral animals are not controlled for similar reasons. There is no money in the coffers provided by the NSW State Government to carry out these fundamental tasks.

Increased funding of National Parks could provide great opportunities for employment in regional areas. Maintenance of fire trails, construction of walking tracks, parking and camping areas and feral pest control would all provide opportunities to employ people of limited experience and skills. Improvement of their further employment prospects would be so enhanced.

Indigenous women and men would be able to find expression of their own culture and assist in native animal monitoring, educational projects and making the parks relevant to all in our community.

Families can find many opportunities for recreation and appreciation of natural systems if more walking tracks and camping areas are developed in our Parks. This is a great way of encouraging a caring society. What's more the money spent helps sustain regional areas.

Please consider these ideas and increase funding of National Parks in our State.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Jones

[Redacted signature block]

1.1 Causes and contributing factors	Lack of funding of National Parks resulting in rapid spread of fires
1.2 Preparation and planning	Fire breaks not maintained in National Parks
1.3 Response to bushfires	Inadequate staff in the National Parks Service to make any realistic contribution to fire control in National Parks
1.4 Any other matters	Funding of National Parks in NSW
Upload files	