



Tuesday December 23, 2008-12-23

Senator Anne McEwan  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on  
Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McEwan,

I wish to advise you of an inaccuracy in my presentation to the Senate Hearing on December 10, 2008, regarding the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. I apologise for misleading the Committee, it was not intentional, but the result of a misremembered conversation.

I incorrectly advised your Committee hearing that the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife was established under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It is not.

According to the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change website, 'The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife is an independent charity. It supports the National Parks and Wildlife Service in its efforts to preserve our landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage, by funding conservation projects that are beyond reach of public resources.'

The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife ... 'was setup in 1970 with Mr. E. S. Buckley OBE, as Chairman. Its objective was to raise money from the general community for direct financial assistance to the [National Parks and Wildlife] Service, commencing by seeking donations from large business enterprises; its activity extended in 1973 to an annual door knock appeal, throughout the State. The Foundation's advertising campaigns and activities have contributed to the cause of nature conservation by increasing public awareness and understanding of national parks and wildlife, policies and objectives.'<sup>\*</sup>

Since 2002, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife has been a national charity - so already has the capacity to fundraise to support all Australian national parks & wildlife and the public can donate to us for the same.

The Colong Foundation hopes that the Ken Henry tax review will be able to remedy the inexplicable inequity between cultural gift donors and environmental gift donors where donations of property this situation. This would demonstrate that Government support for those citizens who give for the public good, and especially our national parks and wildlife.

The Commonwealth review of not-for-profit governance is welcome, as it is proposing to remove some of the administrative burden for charities that raise funds in more than one state.

I look forward to your Committee's report into the operation of the EPBC Act.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir  
Director  
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

\* Source: Australia's 100 years of National Parks, reprinted from Parks and Wildlife, Vol 2, No 3-4, April 1979. NPWS, Sydney.