

To The Secretary, Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and Arts Reference Committee.

I am concerned about the inadequate financing of many necessary aspects of NPWS core activities. As a member of the Mid North Coast Advisory NPWS Committee, and a Councillor on Greater Taree City Council, there are aspects of local work which are not being done due to lack of finance. The most important of these is Infrastructure Maintenance, such as Roads. Weed control is a most important and constantly needs more attention than it is given.

As a local government Councillor I am also concerned about NPWS delay on its intention to acquire and look after important strips of coastal reserves. I applaud their acquisition, but it is being delayed because the NPWS have insufficient funds to go ahead with it. NPWS have told local government of their intention to take some coastal reserves into their care. Consequently, local government have stopped maintaining these areas, but NPWS now say they have insufficient funds to go ahead with what they had planned. Local residents are impatient to see this process of care by NPWS go ahead, and complain to me when I report that lack of resources is holding it up. Also, more staff are needed in National Parks so that less vandalism and better public relations are established.

Your sincerely, Helen Hannah, Councillor, GTCC