



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

www.napfa.net

secretary@napfa.net

PO Box 2664

Carlingford Court

NSW 2118

"Fights for fairer access to land in NSW and represents the interests of prospectors and fossickers"

Introduction

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc is pleased to respond to the NSW Crown Lands *Proposed road closing section 35 roads act 1993 & notice of intention to sell crown lands section 34(3) crown lands act 1989, as Published in Mudgee Guardian on 09 October 2015.*

Our members are concerned at the following proposed closures of Crown roads:

- Maitland Bar & Hargraves, south of Meroo Creek, north of Gundowa Rd, within and adjoining properties 'Glen Heather', 920 Maitland Bar Rd, 'Maroombilli' & 'Kilkivan' (Acc:555615 & Ref: 09/11907)
- Crown road at Worlds End, adjoining Meroo Creek, south of Yarrabin Rd, within property 931 Worlds End Rd (Acc: 555387 Ref: 09/11883)
- Crown roads at Maitland Bar & Hargraves, south of Meroo Creek, north of Gundowa Rd, within and adjoining properties 'Glen Heather', 920 Maitland Bar Rd, 'Maroombilli' & 'Kilkivan' (Acc:555615 & Ref: 09/11907)
- Crown and unformed council roads at Windeyer & Meroo, in the vicinity of Meroo Creek and Barossa Rd, within and adjoining properties 'Little Oakey', 'Warratra', 'Camiloroi', 2360 & 2322 Queens Pinch Rd, and lot 2 DP574850 (Acc: 555299 Ref: 15/07774)

About NAPFA and background to our comments

The NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association (NAPFA) was formed in 2012 in response to the progressive decay of recreational prospecting and fossicking opportunities in New South Wales. NAPFA has over 1000 financial members drawn from the (majority) NSW and the Australian Capital Territory. Members generally fossick for gold and gemstones.

Prospecting and fossicking has made a significant contribution to the prosperity and heritage of NSW, and the country as a whole, since colonial days. It has long been a traditional activity that people undertake in the Australian bush. Many families, hobby groups and picnickers enjoy this outdoor recreational activity.

NAPFA is committed to retaining the long established tradition of recreational fossicking and prospecting on public lands as a way of preserving traditional Australian skills, values and customs. These include bushcraft, camping, mateship and love of the great outdoors.

Ready access to land suitable for fossicking and prospecting is integral to NAPFA members' participation in this pastime. In NSW, amateur prospectors and fossickers have accessed the gold and gemstone bearing areas, Creeks and Rivers under the control of NSW governments and other public (Crown) lands under conditions set by the Mining Act of 1992 and leasehold and private, freehold land, only by permission of the owner.

Conclusion

Closure of access to gold and gemstone bearing creeks listed above will have a detrimental impact to our members, and those in the public that frequent these locations for the purposes of prospecting and fossicking.

NAPFA recommends not to close access in these cases, and to consider the impacts to prospectors and fossickers in future closure and sell off proposals.

NAPFA is willing to review and discuss any proposals from Crown Lands for the purpose of determining value and potential impacts to prospectors and fossickers.

Regards,

Sean Ashcroft

NAPFA Public Officer

mpprospector@primusonline.com.au

0422 260 535