



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398
www.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”

14 March, 2014

--NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

NSW RECREATIONAL FOSSICKERS JUST WANT A FAIR GO

Recreational prospectors and fossickers welcome recommendations of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into *‘Tourism in local communities’* that were released last week.

The recommendations have asked the NSW Government to investigate opportunities for fossicking in National Parks, a single access fee for State Forests and linked fossicking information on the Destination NSW website.

President of the NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc, Stephen Dangaard, said the current exclusion of fossickers from National Parks and State Conservation Areas discouraged regional fossicking tourism and was rooted in misunderstanding of what fossicking is.

“Protectionists incorrectly and hysterically equate recreational fossicking with mining – but it is not that at all. It is an enjoyable, healthy, outdoor recreational activity that is practiced by people of all ages. It gets people off the couch and into the great outdoors,” Mr Dangaard said.

“We don’t use bulldozers and we don’t leave shafts and pits like the gold miners of the 1850s.

“The problem is that over the past 20 years too many areas have been locked-up without any sensible balance. What we want is fair use of public land and a fair go for fossickers who have had traditional fossicking areas stripped away without consideration.

“Recreational fossickers love the environment and know it well because they spend a lot of time in the bush.

“Many of the areas we are talking about were mined extensively over the past 160 years. They are not pristine areas.

“We are not after access to all areas of all National Parks – but believe there is room for change when it comes to areas with known mineral or gem resources that can be fossicked by recreational fossickers. We want a sustainable future for fossicking.

“Fossickers can visit regional areas for days and even weeks at a time and bring economic benefit to small towns which are often struggling to survive.”

Mr Dangaard said the NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association (NAPFA) was ready to assist the government respond to the report.

The recommendations relating to fossicking are:

Recommendation 17

That the NSW Government investigate further opportunities for tourism development in national parks including accommodation, camping, mountain bike trails and fossicking.

Recommendation 19

That the NSW Government investigate opportunities for fossicking in national parks, a single access fee for state forests and linking information for fossicking activities on the Destination NSW website.

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR THIS STORY

http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/Parlment/committee.nsf/0/91B529C2E7AA3824CA257C920083817B?open&refnavid=LC5_4

www.napfa.net

http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/363544/A-Guide-to-Fossicking-in-New-South-Wales.PDF

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/a-lack-of-prospects-20130720-2qawh.html>

CONTACT DETAILS

Stephen Dangaard

President

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc

Tel: 02 62589302; 0448 353 885

Email: President@napfa.net