



Media Statement

National Parks Association of Queensland
For immediate release
11th November 2013

Overgrazed National Parks are a wildlife wasteland

The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) recently visited 4 of the 5 National Parks being grazed by cattle and were appalled at what they found.

NPAQ Executive Coordinator Paul Donatui said that "Parts of Moorrinya and Forest Den National Parks have been grazed by cattle down to bare earth, leaving absolutely nothing for the native wildlife in these Parks."

Mr Donatui said that "Queensland just came through one of the worst droughts in living memory, but at no stage did the State Government resort to allowing grazing on National Parks. Graziers are prioritising the welfare of cattle destined for the dinner plate over the welfare of endangered native animals. Cattle grazing directly threatens the survival of at least 20 rare animals and plants that occur on the 5 National Parks, including the vulnerable Squatter pigeon and the endangered Julia Creek Dunnart."

Mr Donatui said "A massive 83% of Queensland is grazed by livestock. That some graziers want access to the meagre 4.8% that is National Park is beyond the pall. National Parks are not cow paddocks – they are the last hope for the survival of our unique wildlife."

For more information:

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Additional Notes

NPAQ completely rejects the argument that attempts to justify grazing on the basis that some National Parks were grazing properties previously, are therefore in some way degraded, and that grazing over the short-term will do little or no damage.

Mr Donatui said that "For decades up until the mid-1990's, many parts of Queensland were extensively cleared. During that period, countless thousands of native animals and birds suffered horrible deaths at the hands of the bulldozers. A small number of properties with intact parcels of bush remained - uncleared because of the wisdom

and stewardship of past owners, but also because the land was too poor in quality, or too difficult to access, for grazing."

Some of these areas became National Parks.

"In the case of the five National Parks, QPWS Rangers, conservation groups and volunteer organizations have worked tirelessly to restore and rehabilitate small degraded areas found within these Parks. Cattle are now spreading weeds, trampling the habitat of native animals, and destroying waterways in these Parks. 20 years of effort is being lost" Mr Donatiau said.

Photo credits

Paul Donatiau
National Parks Association of Queensland

Person in photos

Paul Donatiau