

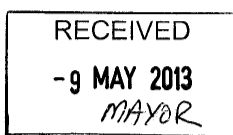
**APPENDIX 7
LETTER FROM THE HON. ROBYN PARKER MP**



The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

MD13/1958

Cr Kent R. Johns
Mayor
Sutherland Shire Council
Locked Bag 17
SUTHERLAND NSW 1499



Kent
Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter regarding sporting ovals and the Rural Fire Service (RFS) facility within Royal National Park. I appreciate you bringing Council's concerns to my attention.

As you may be aware, the formal revocation of land from a national park can only occur through an Act of Parliament. The successful passage of revocation proposals depends not only on the assessment conducted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) against other priorities but also upon the parliamentary process.

I have instructed NPWS to consider the points you have raised with a view to including the revocation of the Loftus, Heathcote and Grays Point sporting ovals from Royal National Park in a future package of revocation proposals. I am advised that NPWS has previously held discussions with Sutherland Shire Council which has indicated that it would be willing to take responsibility for ownership and management of the sporting ovals, should revocation occur.

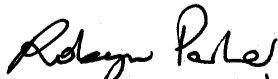
NPWS has also previously enabled access to, and use of, these sporting fields and their associated facilities under licence. However, I understand that this licence has now expired. In recognition of the importance of these areas to the local community, I have asked that NPWS continues to honour Council's ongoing access to these sporting facilities.

You also make reference to the RFS Regional Headquarters in the Heathcote area. I am advised that this facility is occupied under licence from NPWS and is considered to be an appropriate long-term use of the park, given the RFS's role in assisting NPWS in fire management activities. I therefore do not consider revocation of this facility from Royal National Park to be necessary.

Should you have any further queries about the process for revocation of land from a national park, please contact Ms Louisa Clark, A/Principal Policy Officer, on 9585 6001. Inquiries regarding access to the sporting ovals and related issues should continue to be directed to Ms Christine Hopkins, Manager Royal Area, on 9542 0615.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely


Robyn Parker MP *8/5/13*
Minister for the Environment