

**Submission  
No 92**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

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I'm disappointed to see more areas of National Park gated and locked in the past decades. I see paid access is more prevalent and fines are threatened in places that I once enjoyed. I'm a responsible user of national parks, with an interest in photography and wildlife. I accessed these parks via four wheel drive and trail bike, but a great majority of places are being closed to all but walkers. Now in my 25+ years of travel through many parks, I've found it rare to actually see walkers at all. Most places that are closed to 4WD or bikes are very remote. Most people won't manage a 40-60 km walk in a weekend. This leaves a very small number of people actually accessing the parks locked trails. I imagine this eliminates a financial burden of upkeep to trails in some cases, and caters to the "greener" parties idea's of creating "wilderness" areas. The thing is, trails are required for fire control, and to see them in fall in ruin is the loss of an asset. One example is the Youdales Hut Camping Area in the Oxley Wild Rivers NP. Its gated on both sides and only able to be entered one way with a key provided from Walcha (at cost). Why not from Kempsey as well? The Park should belong to the people. Not just those who can afford access. I see wild pigs have torn up the environment more than any 4WD could, and no trapping or baiting to be observed. I note that the camping area is well maintained, but other more accessible and utilized places (Like Collombatti Lookout) fallen into disrepair. The Macleay Valley is a beautiful area, and for the sake of tourism should be better presented. I would like to think that in the future my kids could still go to the places that I've traveled in my lifetime. I don't want to show them photo's of places they could never go. Please don't lock up all the parks, or require fees that should come from Government coffers in the first place.