

Submission
No 154

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 30/07/2012

Partially Confidential

I would like to express my concern regarding the conversion of State Forest land to National Parks or Conservation Areas and then locking these areas up to all but bush walking. We have been regularly riding our motorcycles in the state forest areas surrounding Narrabri since the mid 1970's. We are basically the only regular users of these areas. In the past 20 years I have only ever come across other users once. They are relatively small areas with only limited access points so if there were other users we would have come across them or seen tracks. We have been using the same tracks for the entire period and the condition of these tracks has not deteriorated over time. We would even be prepared to maintain our tracks if required.

In saying all that the access to the state forest has been limited due to having to go through private land with locked gates. We have been given keys to the gates but this meant that access has been limited to those deemed responsible by the landholders. I am fine with this system and would be happy if there was a system with registered users.

These areas are removed from residential areas which makes them ideal for use with motorcycles. Presently they are basically unused. I would like to see a system implemented where they could be used responsibly by all parties instead of blanket closures.