

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

Organisation: Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association

Date received: 2/08/2012

DSMRA Submission to the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 in relation to the management of public land in NSW.

To who it may concern, the Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association is the peak body representing off road motorcycle riders with licenses and registered motorcycles, in NSW and the ACT. Our organisation conducts organised group motorcycle rides for our members and the majority of these rides take place in the area throughout South Eastern Australia. We have over 1000 members Australia wide with the majority of those residing in NSW or the ACT. This results in our organisation being very regular users of state forests and public land in this region.

Please refer to our full submission and supporting material attached to this submission.

Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association

DSMRA
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2nd August 2012

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

To who it may concern, the Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association is the peak body representing off road motorcycle riders with licenses and registered motorcycles, in NSW and the ACT. Our organisation conducts organised group motorcycle rides for our members and the majority of these rides take place in the area throughout South Eastern Australia. We have over 1000 members Australia wide with the majority of those residing in NSW or the ACT. This results in our organisation being very regular users of state forests and public land in this region.

We believe this makes us a considerable stakeholder in the management of public land and we are very concerned with what appears to be an ongoing default approach of converting undeveloped crown land and state forests in to National Park estate or conservation areas simply for ease of management and minor budgetary savings. Our organisation believes in a wide range of public uses of public land while applying practises that minimise the impact on the environment. In line with this belief we are opposed to the extension of or creation of any new, National Parks or conservation areas unless there is a demonstrated threat to a highly endangered species of flora or fauna that only exists within the proposed new park or conservation area. Please refer to the brochures attached with this submission for further information about our organisation, our vision and to see a copy of our organisations code of conduct for off road motorcycle riding. We believe that our organisations common sense approach to access and use of public land embodies the true spirit of all Australians being able to visit and experience the impressive features our nation has to offer. Whether it be camping at Menindee lakes, riding the bridal track and marvelling at the historical significance of the early goldfields or following the banks of the Snowy River on the Barry Way, without access by motorised transport the experience would be lost to the vast majority of Australians.

Our member's access to public land and state forests is of paramount importance to our sport and we would ask that any plans or strategies that result in converting public land and state forests to National Park estate or conservation areas, receive wide public consultation prior to enactment; and that the recreation value of public land and state forests be given a higher priority than has been done previously. As more and more National parks and conservation areas are declared, the importance of every piece of remaining public land and state forest increases exponentially for recreational purposes. If the management balance were to tip too far towards tightly controlled and closed off areas the pressure of overuse on remaining areas may lead to environmental damage, financial loss to communities in and around these remaining accessible areas from reduced tourism, and potential confrontations between competing user groups. Some of our members feel that this point may already be very close and that no further National Parks or conservation areas should be declared. Many of our members have rural backgrounds and first experienced the sheer pleasure and exhilaration of off road motorcycling on a farm or property. Although the majority of us now live in metropolitan areas we feel this gives us an affinity with rural communities. As an organisation that encourages travel to and

regularly visits rural areas of NSW we would also strongly oppose any compulsory acquisitions of agricultural land for the purpose of creating National Park estates and conservation areas.

The DSMRA believes that National parks and conservation areas are important to ensure Australia's natural heritage is maintained for future generations but does not support the restriction of access to any areas that result in only the young and fit few that can hike many kilometres, being able to see and experience it. We would also ask that the opinions of our club members who have actually been to and seen so much of the remote areas in NSW be given more credence than slickly marketed petitions and expensive media campaigns when weighing up any decisions that may lead to state forests, crown and agricultural land being converted to National Park estate or conservation reserve.

On behalf of the Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association

DSMRA Riders Code

- * Obey the laws and regulations on recreational vehicles. Observe restrictions on use of public land & don't go around locked gates.
- * Respect the environment. Stick to formed tracks & avoid sensitive areas such as wetlands & vegetated dunes. Respect native wildlife.
- * Don't ride when conditions are such that it will severely damage tracks. As a general guide, if you are leaving a 10cm deep rut over a distance of 50m or more you shouldn't be in there.
- * Be considerate of other users of the bush. Keep to the left-hand side of any track and give way to horse riders. Ride sensibly past general recreational areas such as camping and picnic spots.
- * Always ride a well muffled and registered bike.
- * Always carry a current drivers licence and don't ride in public areas with unlicensed or unregistered riders.
- * Obtain permission from the relevant landholder before riding or camping on private land. Leave livestock alone & leave gates as you found them.
- * Exercise some throttle control when overtaking other vehicles. Don't shower them with rocks!
- * Don't wear a single line through drainage structures such as erosion control banks.
- * Keep the environment clean, take out what you take in.

I agree to abide by the DSMRA riders code:

_____/_____/_____
(Please sign) (date)

Credit Card Details (Mastercard and Visa only)

I authorise the 'DSMRA' to debit my Credit card for payment of my membership

☐ \$50 Single or ☐ \$70 Family Membership

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Signature _____

Card Number _____ / _____
Card Expiry

DSMRA Membership Form

DSMRA's CONTACT DETAILS

DSMRA
PO Box 80
Wooronga NSW 2517
Tel (02) 4285 3532
Email membership@dsmra.asn.au

Please accept my request for membership with the DSMRA. I have signed, dated and completed this form and now return with payment by cheque/money order or credit card (including GST) to the above address. (This is a reply paid box, no postage stamp required.)

Please fill out the following details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

First Aid Qualifications: _____

Expiry: _____

Have you had a previous membership (Y/N): _____

If so then the number: _____



www.dsmra.asn.au

"working to keep our
country open"



"...committed to promoting adventure riding in a manner that preserves the natural environment"



What is the DSMRA?

The Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association is a nationwide network of licensed riders who enjoy exploring the bush trails and desert tracks of the great Australian outdoors on trail bikes. As the name "Dual Sport" implies our sport utilises registered motorcycles that can be used on all terrain, from sealed roads to the toughest bush tracks

The DSMRA was formed in 1995 in response to the increasing restrictions on access for recreational vehicles to public land. Our aim is twofold:

- To unite adventure riders into a cohesive national body that can provide an effective voice for trail bike riders in the political debate over land access and;
- To increase the opportunities for our members to get out and enjoy the great Australian outdoors.



Our Vision

The DSMRA is committed to promoting adventure riding in a manner that preserves the natural environment and improves the perception of trail bike riders in the wider community. We believe that it is essential for all users of the Bush to care for the environment to ensure that we can continue to visit and enjoy Australia's wild places.

We strive to educate our members in riding practices that will minimise the impact of trail riding on the environment.



DSMRA Activities

- Hold non-competitive, well-organised rides for members across Australia, catering for all rider skill levels.
- Provide education for members in First Aid, riding skill and environmentally friendly riding practices.
- Provide a national network of riding contacts with local knowledge of trails and riding areas..
- Communicate with National Parks, State Forests and other land managers at both State and regional levels, to ensure that the interests of trail riders are taken into consideration in land management decisions.
- Prepare submissions to land managers in response to management plans.
- Participate in the political debate over land access for recreational users and co-operate with other recreational user groups in fighting land closures.
- Actively consult with the motorcycle industry, including joint projects, especially to prevent the trend of land closures.
- Monthly newsletter to members.
- Contribute to the community through such activities as participating in Clean Up Australia Day, volunteering assistance in search and rescue efforts and organising fund-raising rides for charity..