

**Submission  
No 492**

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

**Name:** Mr Robert Nash

**Date received:** 1/08/2012

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Re: access to the Watagan State Forest

I regularly take part in recreational use of national parks and state forest by means of a 4WD and a an off road motorcycle.

Over the 12 years I have utilised this states forests for recreations, I have noticed a staggering amount of land area and existing trails be closed to public use. This, I feel, is limiting my ability to legally recreate in the way I wish to.

Of course, various 'green' groups and government bodies claim that 4WD vehicles and offroad motorcycles are seriously damaging the natural environment and I believe this is the main reason behind the closure of land area and tracks. These groups have convinced the NSW government to side with a minority (I refer to those who wish all forests to be exclusion zones or bushwalking only) and not allow the majority to responsibly recreate on our own public land.

What is even worse, is the fact that the reasons cited for why 4WD and offroad motorcycles are damaging the environment (mainly noise pollution and erosion) are severely over-exaggerated.

Noise pollution would be a problem in small forests on the edge of cities and towns. However, the vast majority of users like myself are well out of hearing range when recreating.

While the trails used by offroad 4WD vehicles do suffer from erosion, it is of an insignificant quantity in comparison to that created naturally by wind and rain. I agree the trails often look badly eroded, but compare this volume of eroded material to the volume over an entire forest. This is not to mention the erosion after a natural occurrence like a bushfire or landslide - these volumes of eroded material would be in the thousands of times more than that created by 4WD users.

Lastly, motorcycles create far less erosion than 4WD's and as previously mentioned, are mostly used well out of hearing range of the public.

Also, briefly, why is camping in National Parks so a)expensive b)so-few-and-far-between? And why not let dogs on leads into national parks? It is ridiculous.

You as the government need to NOT lock us out of our own land.

Thanks