

Submission  
No 111

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 2/08/2012

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Partially Confidential

To Minister,

Being a nature lover, it distress me greatly that so much land is being locked up. In my view you could argue that restrictions could be beneficial in certain circumstances however, if you lock it away no one gets to experience it or manage it. If you chose to restrict it you could introduce a licensing system that people would pay for and they would need to show that they have an understanding of the possible damage they could inflict on sensitive areas. Or you could restrict access to clubs or groups (but not to money making tour operators).

At times it is hard to believe the damage that is done by authorities to block access. I have seen many trees pushed over tracks to prevent people from using the track. What is the point in this ??

On a specific note: the Goulbourne River National Park, near Bylong. There was a small parcel of land that was being leased to a farmer. He ran cattle on the property. To get to it there was a rough 4WD track that took approx 40 minutes. Once at the river it was the most amazing place with massive grassed areas, massive sandstone cliffs and native wildlife everywhere including wombats, Emu's, kangaroo's, goanna's and many birds. Then it was locked up and the cattle removed. I recently walked down to the river, I was almost in tears. The whole place was overgrown with all sorts of aggressive weeds, some with thorns. We saw a wombat covered by these thorns. So what possible benefit can this bring? I won't bother going there again because the place is now too dangerous for children.

The activities my family participate in are camping, dirt bike riding, mountain biking and hiking. Locking these lands up just encourages children to become sedentary.

Also, when authorities behave in a fashion that is seen to be unreasonable it is inevitable that some people will ignore the law.

Thanks,

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