

**Submission  
No 104**

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

**Name:** Mr Mark Smith

**Date received:** 28/07/2012

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What good is it that in order to protect our native areas, we lock the people out of them? I support a system of management made up of the user groups. This formed council will make the decisions that affect our natural bushland, parks and reserves. Their ultimate purpose and goal being to keep these areas open for use by the people in which it belongs. The wilderness and Australian bush belong to the people of this great country. Give it back.

# INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Mr Mark Smith

**Date received:** 30/07/2012

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This submission is to appeal for the commonsense management of our National Parks, Wilderness areas, Reserves, State Forests and Water catchment areas.

These areas belong to the people, are valued by the majority of Australians and are appreciated by our visitors. It matters not what these areas are named or classified, it matters that we as a nation of people can continue to enjoy and utilise our very own backyard. What use is it to protect and limit access to these areas so tightly, yet not allow the Australian people the right to enjoy them?

These areas are a legacy for future generations of Australians and should be managed by those who actually use them, who get out there and see it, experience and live it, and know and understand it better than the average university student, dressed in a Koala bear suit on downtown George street holding a bucket and reading erroneous information from a brochure, yet actually believes the Royal National Park is somewhere near Canberra. (?)

Currently there exists a lot of confusion on how and why so many of our parks, forests and reserves are being gated and locked! There is no communication as to why and the people who use it want answers.

What good is it that in order to protect our native areas, we lock the people out of them? No one will know what is in there; no one will be able to experience the silence and serenity, the total blackness and stillness of a night staring at one million stars and into the universes beyond ours.

I support a system of management made up of the user groups, these being campers, hikers, four wheels drivers, beekeepers, farmers, shooters, fishers, mountain bikers, horse riders, dirt bike riders, foresters and educated experts in the fields that are relevant. This formed council will make the decisions that affect our natural bushland, parks and reserves.

They will create;

- better communication and education of our bush areas for the people who use it.
- any zones and restrictions or controls that may be required in maintaining our resources.
- Ultimately they will design and continue to monitor and improve together as a council, the management of our areas. Their ultimate purpose and goal being to keep these areas open for use by the people in which it belongs.

In the past I have been a shooter, mountain biker, and dirt bike rider. Reduced access to areas in which to enjoy these past times has made me regretfully give up each interest. Currently I am a four wheel drive camper, in which my wife, two children and I like to travel into remote areas to experience the unique and natural beauty of our bush. It now can take weeks of research to find new places to camp that may possibly not be over run with other campers on the same weekends. This is no doubt due to the closure of many sites and nature areas from public access, thus forcing all and many to converge upon what remains open. I can confirm that these areas are not benefitting from the excess traffic being forced upon them. I urge you to reopen the areas to the people, to give all

Australians back their right to go walkabout, if only for one night before having to return to work Monday morning, whether they do it by horse, foot, bike or car.  
The wilderness and Australian bush belong to the people of this great country. Give it back.