

**Submission
No 68**

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

Name: Mr Matthew Ferguson

Date received: 26/07/2012

As a active member of the Rally community, I am concerned with the loss of access to areas that have been part of rallying in Australia for more than 50 years.

The locking up of National parks and the conversion of State forests into either national parks or conservation areas would end my sport.

The rally community are frequent users of both the public road network and state forests throughout NSW, and not only pay our way for the use of these areas, the Rally community always ensures that damages caused by our use of the roads is repaired, often leaving the road in better condition than before an event.

There is significant economic input into regional towns by the rally community where our money is spent in many regional towns when a rally event is held. There are some towns like Oberon (Central west) and Eden (South coast) where leading up to and during the event all of the accommodation is booked out, this is normally in the off peak periods for these establishments and an injection of tens of thousands of dollars makes the difference between a good year and not making a profit. To give you an indication of the amount of revenue a rally brings to a rural town, a typical weekend for me would see me spend over \$3000 dollars within the local community and business on accommodation, fuel, food, and of course relaxation.

With up to 100 teams competing you can see the numbers quickly add up to a significant amount.

An amount that would not be spent if we were to lose access to roads across NSW both in any out of state forests.

In your deliberations please consider the loss to these communities of significant revenue streams that will not be replaced once removed. and that everyone should have a reasonable right to access and use the Australian Bush, its parks and state forests.