

Submission
No 381

**INQUIRY INTO ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO PUBLIC
LANDS AND WATERWAYS**

Name: Mr Christopher Ross

Date Received: 17 July 2025

I have the following concerns:

National Parks, Marine Parks and other conservation reserves are among the most important and valued public assets in NSW.

The importance of parks to local and regional communities is demonstrated by their extraordinary popularity, with more than 60 million visits each year. Park visitors contribute over \$19 billion per annum to the NSW economy.

Those tens of millions of visits are only possible because of the abundant existing opportunities for environmentally sustainable public access.

Parks support a vast range of low-impact activities, including walking, picnicking, camping, cycling, sightseeing, swimming, diving, sailing, kayaking and boating.

The idea that conservation lands are not publicly accessible is demonstrably untrue.

National Parks, Marine Parks and other conservation reserves are places where natural systems are safeguarded while offering abundant opportunities for recreational activities that ‘tread lightly’ on the environment.

I oppose the introduction of any activities that damage the environmental values of parks, diminish the experience of the millions of visitors seeking quiet enjoyment in nature, or endanger public safety.

Shooting, unauthorised track construction, mining, and inappropriate commercial development have no place in parks. I have this impact in local parks.

I expect our existing parks to fully protect their natural and cultural values, and I want the NSW Government to lead the nation in establishing new National Parks and Marine Parks to combat the climate and extinction crises.