

Proforma A

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Proforma A - Retaining public ownership and management of Crown land

Number received: 28

Hon Paul Green MLC,
Committee Chair
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 6

Submission to the NSW Upper House inquiry Parliamentary inquiry into Crown land NSW

I am making this submission to the Upper House Parliamentary inquiry into Crown land in New South Wales because I am strongly in favor of retaining public ownership of state parks, beaches, caravan/ camping grounds, cemeteries, racecourses, bowling clubs, showgrounds, community halls, sporting fields, parks, wharves and ports.

I believe that at a time when our state is facing unprecedented development pressures, we cannot afford to lose anymore community facilities and precious green spaces to commercial interests.

I have a number of serious concerns about the proposed changes to the Crown Lands Act including:

1. That no evaluation of the social or environmental values of Crown lands were made during the review of the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper although this was required by the Review's terms of reference.
2. *Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) is not proposed as an object of the new legislation and current management principles in the Crown Lands Act will be omitted.*
3. ***Under the government's plans, a business-orientated model is proposed that would promote economic growth over good environmental practice.***
4. ***Crown land assessed as having local significance, if transferred to councils, could be sold or its use changed. For example, open space could become a parking lot or road.***
5. Carbon sequestration will be promoted without consideration to the effectiveness and environmental impacts of particular types of sequestration.
6. The government's position on issues such as forestry on Crown lands and identification of Crown land as wilderness is unknown.
7. The government has not made public over 600 submissions to the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper. This is in contrast to what occurred in respect to the Planning Review White Paper.

I call on you to instigate an immediate moratorium on any Crown and public land being sold or developed until the Upper House inquiry Parliamentary inquiry reports on:

- (a) the extent of Crown land and the benefits of active use and management of that land to the people of New South Wales;
- (b) the adequacy of community input and consultation regarding the commercial use and disposal of Crown land;
- (c) the most appropriate and effective measures for protecting Crown land so that it is preserved and enhanced for future generations; and
- (d) the extent of Aboriginal Land Claims over Crown land and opportunities to increase Aboriginal involvement in the management of Crown land.

Yours Faithfully