



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 6

## MEDIA RELEASE

### CROWN LAND FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 October 2016

Today, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 has released its report on Crown land in New South Wales. “This inquiry was about listening to the community and understanding their expectations in relation to Crown land use and management. Our recommendations seek to create a Crown land management system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is accountable to the people and puts checks and balances into place to consider the economic, social, cultural and environmental factors that must be taken into consideration” said the Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC.

“The Government will shortly introduce legislation to change the way Crown land is owned and managed in New South Wales. The committee made a number of recommendations to the Government to address concerns arising from key features of the proposed legislation. There are concerns that the transfer of Crown land to local councils will result in cost-shifting. Therefore, the Government should consider recompensing local councils for owning and managing the land. In addition, the committee recommended that legislative protections be introduced to ensure transferred land is retained as public land and managed in the public interest” said Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC.

Mr Green then stated: “In order to provide the community with greater access to accurate online information regarding Crown land, the committee recommended that the Department of Industry – Lands undertake a stocktake of all Crown land in New South Wales before any land is transferred to local government and undertake a digitisation project of maps that identify Crown land”.

“It became apparent that the community highly values the importance of Crown land, and they need to be meaningfully consulted on Crown land decisions. Consultation cannot merely be a PR exercise. For this reason we recommend the Government include in new Crown land legislation consultation methods based on the more robust provisions in the *Local Government Act 1993*” said Mr Green.

Mr Green stated: “The committee acknowledges the frustration caused by the backlog of Aboriginal land claims on Crown land and the impact this has on the economic sustainability of local Aboriginal land councils. We are concerned that the Aboriginal Land Agreements pilot program designed to help address this issue is still yet to commence and therefore call on the department to prioritise the conduct and completion of the program with an evaluation to be made publicly available by the end of 2017”.

For further information about the inquiry, including submissions and hearing transcripts please visit the committee’s website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc6](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc6).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC, on 9230 3484.*