

**Submission  
No 30**

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

**Organisation:** Sutton and District Community Association inc.

**Name:** Mr Paul Kable

**Date received:** 18/07/2012

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General Purpose Committee 5  
NSW Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000.

15 July 2012

**RECEIVED**

18 JUL 2012

**GPSC's**

Dear Committee,

**SUTTON VILLAGE CROWN LANDS**

I write as President of the Sutton and District Community Association (SDCA) Inc. Sutton is a village close to the ACT and in Yass Valley Shire.

We have a large section of Crown Land immediately adjacent to the village. This land is proposed to be rezoned E2 in the Yass Valley LEP 2012 approved at gateway for implementation. Aerial photographs are attached; unfortunately not showing the elevation of the land sitting above the village in a prominent position; the committee is invited to visit and walk the land. One photo shows the proposed rezoning in red with greenway approaches in blue and green.

The Crown Land is on a high ridge with 360 degree views of a wide area; as far as Canberra to the south and Gundaroo to the north. Its north/south extent is the same as the village. It has been assessed as environmentally significant woodland by Rainer Rehwinkel, Senior Threatened Species Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Section at the Environment Protection Authority. He has identified many plant, animal and bird natives living there; echidnas and several types of lizard can be seen.

This land rezoned E2 and looked after by Council and community would provide a wonderful passive recreation area for villagers and an educational facility for the adjoining primary school of over 200 pupils. It is already used by walkers and joggers. The Community Association has been frustrated over nearly twenty years in trying to achieve this aim.

There are problems in moving ahead which we feel might be typical of current Crown Land management.

As the rezoning has been known about for over two years and the current land use by the lease holder is for horse grazing the community has been trying to move quickly to prevent any further degrading of the environment. Hungry horses destroy the native plant understory and ringbark the red and yellow box as the pasture is so poor.

The land in question has been privately leased for some thirty years but not looked after. Year after year the lease holder has been warned to tackle weeds and Crown Lands Department do not follow up because we believe they don't want to look after the land themselves. Only recently have we persuaded the Southern Slopes Noxious Plant Authority to spray and charge the lease holder; that spraying as worked well for now.

The land is under aboriginal land claim and Crown Lands do not want to prejudice that process by allowing any formal approach to remove the lease holder and create a passive recreation area and approach greenways using unmade road reserves. This land claim was part of a State wide claim on over 200 sites at the time of the last State election. There seems to be no resolution in sight on that claim.

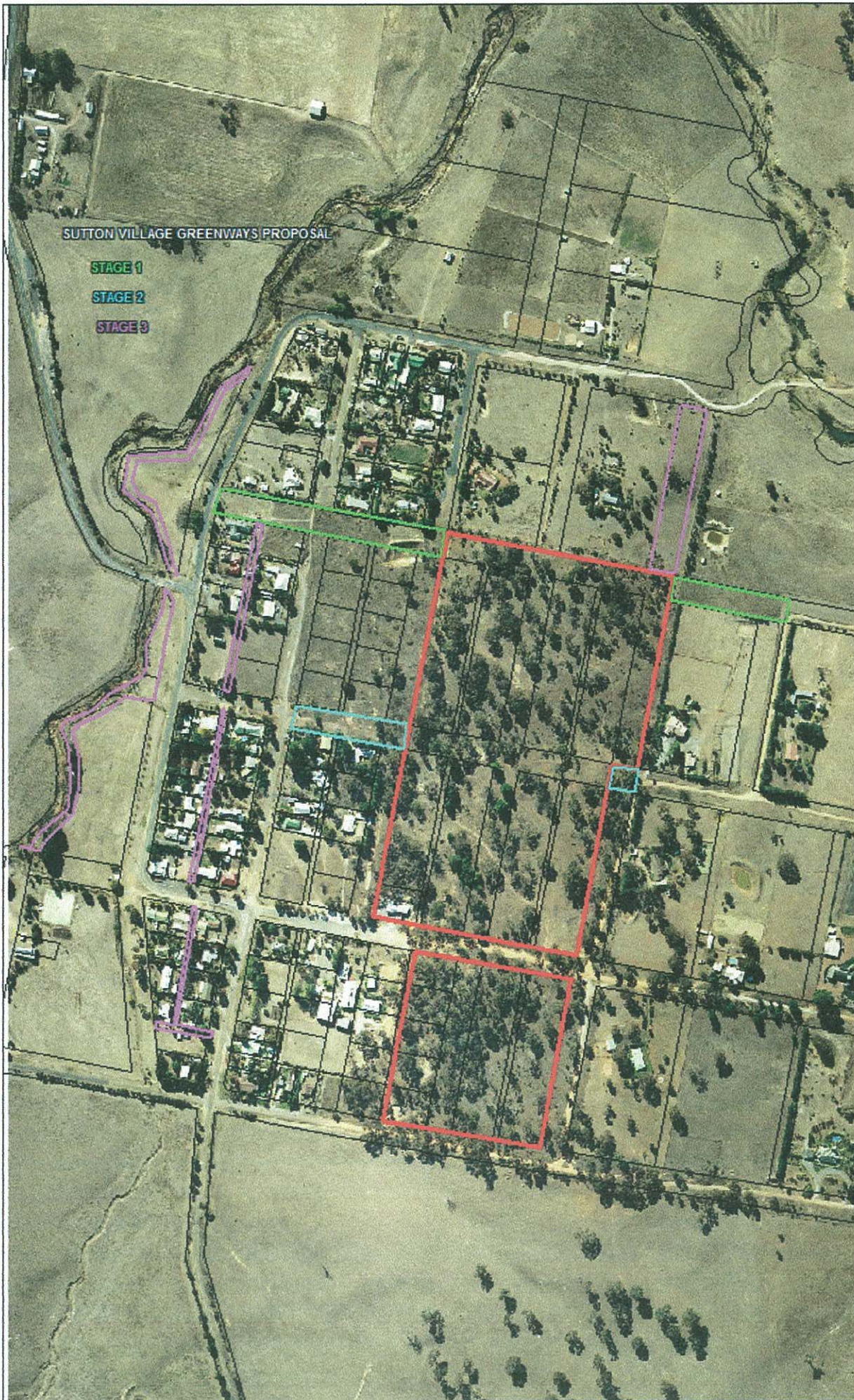
The area is fenced by old incomplete and degraded fencing; the community is keen to have it properly fenced with designated entry points for leashed dogs and ridden horses. We have designed a system of greenways to proposed entry points. The southernmost part, adjacent to the school, has the most significant environmental flora and fauna features which call for a more exclusive fencing to keep dogs and cats out. Community volunteers want to progress all that work however the aboriginal land claim is used by Crown Lands as a reason not to proceed.

Even after the rezoning of the land we are not confident of progress unless the issue of the private leasehold and aboriginal land claim can be solved. That would only result in more degradation and put our vision further into the future.

We hope this submission helps you understand impediments to our aim which is in the interests of the village, the school, the environment and native species.

Regards, Paul Kable  
President  
Sutton and District Community Association Inc





SUTTON VILLAGE GREENWAYS PROPOSAL

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3



