

**Submission
No 256**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

Name: Ms Gennice Davis

Date received: 24/10/2014

Dear Sir/ Madam

As an active and passionate member of the Newcastle community I am aware that the King Edward Headland Reserve was spot re-zoned to make it an exception to the rule that applies to RE1 Land in the Newcastle 1012 LEP that excludes function centres. I am a member of the Friends of King Edward Park Inc. and am therefore aware that the proposal to change the LEP was rejected by Council but the alteration was nonetheless written into the new LEP by a process that was not transparent and did not involve community consultation. This action occurred in the face of strong public interest in the DA proposing the construction of a 450 capacity private function centre and car park on this iconic public property.

There is a discernible and understandable unease in the Newcastle community about developments such as this in the light of the recent ICAC investigation - Operation Spicer. It is beholden on the Parliament of New South Wales to reassure the community of Newcastle that any and all planning decisions made in the shadow of the ICAC investigation be examined by the Parliamentary enquiry. The confidence of the people of Newcastle and New South Wales is dependent on the probity of these decisions being examined and found to be sound.

Yours faithfully

Gennice Davies