

**Submission  
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mrs Margaret Ward

**Date received:** 3/08/2015

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Re the closure of Crowdy Head Public School:

Yes, the school had to close as it was in close vicinity to Harrington Public School. The community held meetings where the final outcome was to lobby for the school to be used for community activities such as an environmental, marine and aboriginal history museum or as a venue to bring country children to the coast. A committee was formed of local residents, aboriginal representatives and environmental groups.

They asked to be given a timeframe of 12 - 24 months before anything was done about the building and land site. This was to enable them to apply for the necessary documents from different government departments to use the existing buildings, etc.

Our local member was not co-operative in supporting this proposal with the result that the toilet block has been removed recently which was integral to the use of the building.

Community groups should be able to apply to use small schools in the country that have been closed for community functions as long as they are prepared to bear all the costs associated with doing so.