

**Submission
No 170**

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

Name: Mr Peter Oataway

Date received: 3/08/2012

Management of Public Land NSW

My submission relates to the impact loss of Local Council rate revenue has on large area low population district like the Hay Shire where I live

Submission

Management of Public Land NSW

Dear Hon NSW MP's

My submission relates to the impact loss of Local Council rate revenue has on large area low population districts like the Hay Shire where I live.

In a recent ABC interview our Mayor Bill Shaeffe was quoted saying the prospect of 'Nimmie Cairra' between Hay and Balranald being purchased by government as part of the Murray Darling Basin Plan may lead to a \$50,000 annual loss in Council rate revenue

Our Hay Shire community is already under stress losing population mostly directly due to impacts of Murray Darling Basin Plan – we are a small community of approximately 3000 people in a Shire of approximately 11,000 KM2

\$50,000 per annum may not seem like a lot in City terms, but in Hay it could mean needed upgrades to our swimming pool – where most of us prefer to see our kids swimming rather than unsupervised areas of the muddy almost zero visibility Murrumbidgee River. A river that fluctuates in height and currents plus often has moving and still submerged hazards such as logs and other snags

Hay which is dissected by the Murrumbidgee River for many years ran a swimming pool at no charge to the Public. Hay has previously had tragic drowning in the Murrumbidgee River – I live across the road from a Death Hole where a child lost her life in the WW2 years in the 1940's

I would like to see the no charge Hay Swimming pool continue operating as it is. But to keep this option available Hay Shire needs to secure its rate paying base – which is what Public Land acquisition in our Shire threatens.

If Public Land paid rates directly to our Shire this would not be an issue

But if State or Federal Government says they will pay something in lieu of that – that money can be lowered or taken away with a change of Government or change of Budget priority – Public Land paying rates direct to Council offers a more stable secure solution to this problem in my opinion. It would take a change of bureaucratic practice and probably culture, but we elect MP's to govern not bureaucrats.

Rural communities and Councils also are under pressure from paying more for services as population decline also often means decline in local tradespeople and service providers (transport, earthmoving, ect) in our Rural Shires – loss of rate revenue from Public Lands puts more pressure on the ratepayers of the Shire. The Ratepayer gets a decline in service delivery due to the acquisition of the Public Land I hope this submission will be taken into consideration

Yours Sincerely

Peter Oataway

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