

**Submission
No 110**

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

Name: Mr James Stokes and Mrs Jeanette Stokes

Date received: 21/10/2014

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile MLC
Chairman, Newcastle Planning Process Enquiry
Parliament House
Sydney. NSW

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned with the lack of transparency and apparent developer influence to changes made to the June 2011 review of the Newcastle LEP.

Our understanding was that in that review, function centres were excluded from land dedicated under the Crown Lands Act for public recreation despite an application from a developer to exclude King Edward Park, Newcastle from this prohibition. Nevertheless, a year later it was discovered that the King Edward headland had in fact now been excluded from this restriction. Somehow a rezoning specific to King Edward Park had occurred.

Our concerns are :-

1. we have been reliably informed that the wording used in this amendment is exactly the same as that used by the developer in his original DA application
2. the process used to bring about the rezoning remains a mystery. No public exhibition, no apparent Newcastle City Council records of approval and no public consultation.

We should be pleased if your enquiry could investigate the issues raised.

Yours Sincerely,

James & Jeanette Stokes