

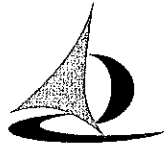
**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 278a**

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

**Organisation:** Lake Macquarie City Council

**Date received:** 31/08/2012

---



Lake Macquarie  
City Council

27 August 2012

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

RECEIVED

31 AUG 2012

GPSC's

Dear Sir/Madam

**Subject: Submission - Inquiry into the Management of Public Lands in NSW**

The City of Lake Macquarie includes extensive areas of Crown land, as well as land in other public agency tenures, and the Council supports a review of the management of land owned by NSW Government agencies. In particular, the Council would like to see more resources made available for public land management and more effective co-ordination with local government practice.

Specific matters for the Committee's attention are as follows:

- The majority of public land within the City is of high biodiversity and conservation significance, and is highly valued by the community. These values may not be recognised by agencies with direct responsibility for their management.
- In Council's experience, conservation reserves under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service are relatively well managed when compared to areas of Crown Land, which are often poorly managed as a result of minimal resources, lack of staff and expertise, and inadequate management planning arrangements.
- Lake Macquarie City Council manages significant areas of Crown land on behalf of the NSW Government without any resource allocation from the NSW Government for this purpose.
- Community and Council proposals for improving management of public land (such as the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park proposal) have been frustrated by a lack of commitment from a number of NSW Government agencies.
- Administrative arrangements for determining the use and management of Crown land could be significantly improved to reflect local government and community objectives, and to deal with significant issues such as weeds, bushfires, erosion, and unauthorised access.

*"Quality Lifestyle"*

ABN 81 06 027 868

Office of the General Manager - Lake Macquarie City Council

126-138 Main Road Speers Point NSW 2284 Box 1906, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

Phone: 02 4921 0220 Fax: 02 4921 0215 Email: council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au Website: www.lakemac.com.au

The inquiry report and recommendations should recognise the above concerns and the need for additional NSW Government resources to provide for the effective management of public lands.

Thank you for considering these comments in the inquiry. Should you require further information, please contact Council's Manager Sustainability,

Yours sincerely

Brian Bell  
**General Manager**