

**Submission
No 254**

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

Name: Ms Jan McLeod

Date received: 24/10/2014

To Whom It May Concern

I am requesting that the circumstances surrounding the spot re-zoning of **King Edward Headland Reserve** in Newcastle be examined as part of the Parliamentary Inquiry into planning decisions in Newcastle.

The Newcastle LEP which was in place at the time excluded the construction of function centres on this Reserve, which was zoned as RE1.

Newcastle City Council rejected the proposed spot-rezoning, and yet it went ahead.

There are many questions as to the **reasons** behind the decision, the **influences** brought to bear, and the **process** by which it occurred. Your Inquiry can help to answer these and other important questions.

The lack of transparency regarding such an important decision was worrying at the time. It is of even greater concern since the ICAC revelations.

Most of us are still reeling from the disgusting acts of betrayal and greed revealed by the ICAC. Many are embarrassed by the stigma now attached to our wonderful town.

Only a methodical and open investigation into matters such as the King Edward Headland decision can restore a modicum of faith in the democratic process.

Thousands of residents of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie will vote tomorrow. It is fair to say that we have lost faith in the ability of our elected representatives to do their job. Few of us trusted politicians before ICAC. None of us trust them now.

An Inquiry into the spot-rezoning of **King Edward Headland Reserve** may just go some way to restoring that faith and trust.

Thank you for considering this submission

Jan McLeod