INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name:

Mr Adrian Newstead OAM

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I am concerned about the use of public buildings on Crown Land. I am particularly keen to advocate that these buildings be used for public and community benefit. While these buildings require maintenance and upkeep, their public use should always have priority over any proposed or potential commercial or private use. The proposed privatisation of Bondi Pavilion is a perfect case in point. It is a highly utilised public space and the hub of the artistic and social life of the Bondi community. There is a clear choice here. Spend \$14 million in allocated funds for an upgrade and keep the building solely for public use. Or spend a proposed \$38 million to renovate the building in order to maximise its private use. The first alternative is entirely appropriate, the second is no more than a land grab by vested commercial interests. Guidelines for DA's and the use of buildings on Crown Land should ALWAYS favour the initial approach and mitigate against the later.