

**Submission  
No 28**

## **INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Rob MacQueen

**Date received:** 13 July 2016

---

Crown reserves are land set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services. This results in a diversity of reserve types, ranging from state parks, beaches and national surfing reserves, caravan and camping grounds, cemeteries, racecourses, showgrounds, community halls, sporting fields and parks, walking tracks, canoe and kayak trails, smaller ports and harbours to wharfs.

Sydney's Hyde Park and Bondi Beach are two famous iconic examples

It promotes the cooperative care, control, and management of Crown reserves by the community with assistance from the NSW Department of Primary Industries - Lands (the Department) and other government agencies and reserve users.

The Crown reserve system aims to optimise the social, recreation, environmental and economic benefits to the people of New South Wales by working in partnership with other government agencies, local government, local trust boards, private enterprise, industry and community groups.

The Department aims to identify and draw on the potential of Crown reserves to ensure that they make a difference to people's lives through responsible management that also supports regional communities and economies now and in the future.

The Department seeks to continually improve its services and the way it manages Crown reserves for community outcomes.

In March 2014, the NSW Government announced substantial changes to the management of Crown land in NSW, following a review by an inter - agency Steering Committee

In March 2014 The Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Stoner, said: The NSW Government will cut red tape, return decision making to local communities and protect community land uses such as surf clubs, scout halls and bowling clubs under the most significant reforms to Crown land management in a generation.

The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No.6,  
Legislative Council, Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000  
email:gpsc6@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

**RE: Proposed development of Crown Land within the Parramatta LGA**

Crown reserves are land set aside on behalf of the **community** for a wide range of **public purposes** including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space and special events. It promotes the **cooperative care, control, and management of Crown reserves by the community** with assistance from the NSW Department of Primary Industries - Lands (the Department) and other government agencies and reserve users. The Crown reserve system aims to **optimise the social, recreation, environmental and economic benefits to the people of New South Wales** by working in partnership with other government agencies, local government, local trust boards, private enterprise, industry and **community groups**.

The Department of Primary Industries aims to identify and draw on the potential of Crown reserves to ensure that they **make a difference to people's lives through responsible management** that also **supports regional communities and economies now and in the future**. To this end in March 2014 The Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Stoner, said: The NSW Government will cut red tape, **return decision making to local communities** and protect community land uses

With the above in mind I am concerned that the Parramatta Park Trust land is being threatened by the State Governments proposal to take the land currently leased by Parramatta City Council for the public swimming pool, and construct a Stadium Precinct with proposed commercial buildings to be placed on the site under the UGNSW development. This is clearly in breach of the Crown Land legislation and totally opposed to the stated aims of the Department. The subject land is described as '**Crown Land: Lot2 DP862127**' on the Crown Land Register. Such a move will take Crown Land, our land, out of the reach of the public as there will be an entry fee for this private facility, albeit on public land. I would like to see a halt to the process have the Government undertake to leave the Crown Land alone and keep it vested as Community Land.

I also hold grave fears for the Fleet St Heritage Precinct and in particular in saving the Parramatta Female Factory from destruction. The Parramatta Girls Home known as

Kambala, is a significant part of the Female Factory and sits on the Crown Land Register known as '**Crown Land: Kambala Reserve Trust – Reserve No. 1002899**'. This land is also under threat from the State Governments Development Arm Urban Growth NSW to be leased to private business use and with limited public access.

The proposed development of the sites is at odds with the purposes and definitions of Crown Land and must not be allowed to occur. The decision making for these sites must remain with local communities and local community groups as that is who the biggest beneficiaries are.

Again I seek a Government assurance that they will undertake not to develop the land in any way nor to sell it for private development. Further I ask that the Government look at engaging with Community Groups regarding the long-term future of these two sites, within and as part of the surrounding Heritage Precinct.

I anxiously await the results of the debate.

Yours faithfully

*Rob MacQueen*