

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

My Submission for Inquiry into Crown land

Crown Land continues to be eyed off by private interests for private profits. This is land that is publicly owned and should be used for public purpose, not rezoned or sold off to private interests for private profit.

Whether it is our public parks, heritage sites, waterfront land, community halls, recreational and sporting grounds, public land is precious and we should prioritise the public ownership and continued retention of all Crown Lands.

Under NSW State policy we will see much of the land transfer to councils and risk the subsequent sale and/or alternately commercialisation... the NSW Government seems intent on introducing legislation into Parliament in spring, despite widespread public concern.

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the loss of public land, the privileged access to public land given to the development industry and corporate interests and the failure of successive governments to protect the public interest in public land

From wide reading it would appear there is incontestable evidence of ongoing systemic and entrenched mismanagement of Crown Lands across the state So I call for a moratorium on any Crown Land being sold, leased or privately developed until the Parliamentary Inquiry publishes its report.

One example being the Gosford City Council (now C. Coast Council) and the NSW State Government have NOT been effective in protecting Crown Land in my local area:

As example I mention the big fight our Waterfront Action Group has had protecting the Crown land of Brisbane Waters waterfront. We took a petition with over 10,000 signatures to NSW parliament.

Our group do not support the systemic transfer of Crown Land to local councils that is not considered by the State Government to be of "State Significance". With a Gosford City Council with "Open for Business" as their mantra it always deferred to developers and we had to rally community support to save our area's Crown land for future generations. We regard our Gosford waterfront as our 'jewel in the crown' !

Also, Gosford Council decided in early September 2015 to start selling off "surplus" property, reserves that are public land in my area, now under threat of sale.

They conducted NO community consultation. So, currently, also we are now involved in grouping again, Save Our Reserves. We want genuine commitment to true community participation. Sad to say, Gosford Council was notable for its poor community consultation process, by and large, there was a culture of make a decision first, and only then invite comment. To sell many of the properties,

they must first be reclassified from "community" to "operational". We demanded that the residents of Gosford LGA, who are the true owners of the land, be consulted on the Land Sale Strategy so we can agree on the criteria for deciding what to sell and what to keep.

Why is it that Central Coast Council (CCC) is changing the zoning of Crown Land parks and reserves solely for the purpose of selling them?

Why is it that the CCC is able to plan to sell off Crown Land without either publishing the criteria upon which these parcels of land were selected; and doing so with land which was bequeathed to them as trustees only, not as owners?

Any improvement on that process will be a step up. Community consultation means nothing after the decision is effectively taken .. a proposal to re-classify community land **MUST** go on public exhibition before any decision to sell takes place.

I repeat, Crown Land is land that is publicly owned and should be used for public purpose, **NOT** rezoned or sold off to private interests for private profit.