

**Submission
No 46**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Simon C Mallender

Date received: 16 July 2016

Submission to the NSW Inquiry into Crown Land.

Simon C R Mallender,

I make this submission as a father of two children.

I understand the terms of reference for your Inquiry into Crown Land are as follows:

- a) the extent of Crown land and the benefits of active use and management of that land to New South Wales,
- b) the adequacy of community input and consultation regarding the commercial use and disposal of Crown land,
- c) the most appropriate and effective measures for protecting Crown land so that it is preserved and enhanced for future generations, and
- d) the extent of Aboriginal Land Claims over Crown land and opportunities to increase Aboriginal involvement in the management of Crown land.

My submission in respect of these points is as follows:

- a). NSW has just completed an Assessment into the Hawksbury Shelf Marine Bioregion, which by many accounts is reasonably thorough, and will probably find that economic benefits will flow from sound ecological management. The overarching methodology use in that Assessment would be a useful model to complete a comprehensive review on the on-shore Crown Lands.
- b). You should remember that Australia is a parliamentary democracy. You are elected to serve the people of NSW. As such, you are obliged within your office, to act as far as possible in the best interests of the people of NSW, and to be completely transparent with the public on all dealings, commercial or otherwise.
- c). Taking Queensland's Great Barrier Reef as an example of a large area with ecological and economic consequences for the people of a State, you can instantly see that ecological mis-management is leading to a significantly declining economic value, and indeed now billions of dollars need to be spent to 'save the Reef'. There are many examples in land and resource management from all over Australia, the simple lesson of which is that: where economics-driven development is prioritised over ecologically sustainable development, the outcome is large both an environmental disaster and consequently an economic failure.

Ecologically sustainable development is not about protecting some obscure marsupial that few of us have ever heard of, or just protecting swathes of land from ourselves for future generations; it's just plain sense evidence 'common sense'.

- d). The involvement of both Aboriginal staff and their techniques in land management has been extremely successful in NT, and a significant tourism 'industry' has been built on the back of it. It would seem obvious to involve those with the most affinity to the land in its management.