

**Submission
No 69**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Friends of Adams Lead

Date received: 19 July 2016

To the Upper House Inquiry into Crown Land

As the coordinator of Friends of Adams Lead I am making this submission:

Adams Lead is a Crown land reserve on the edge of the small country town of Gulgong NSW. Friends of Adams Lead, a subcommittee of Mudgee District Environment Group, manage this remnant of Box Gum Grassy Woodland. This and many other such Crown land reserves are the last remaining examples of these endangered ecosystems.

Grassy Box Gum Woodlands need specialised management to retain and enhance their conservation. This must include appropriate regeneration programs, the control of weeds and pests and assurance that their ecological value is not undermined by commercial activities such as grazing or damaging recreational activities. When properly managed these reserves contribute to the conservation of native vegetation and wild life habitat for the future.

Adams Lead is used for passive recreational activities including picnicking, bird watching and walking. Even more importantly, it provides a venue for educational activities for landholders and school children. This reserve is valued by the local community. The retention of Crown land reserves such as Adams Lead is essential to the long term public benefit and enjoyment. To be sold off would be a great loss to communities.

The changes to the current management and administration of Crown land especially as it relates to its sale and leasing is of grave concern to Friends of Adams Lead. We know of other Box Gum Grassy Woodland sites in our area that are Crown land reserves and we are worried about the program speed up and the lack of transparency and accountability. We believe there needs to be more consultation, more community input and more mapping especially of areas of conservation value.

To effectively and appropriately protect, preserve and enhance Crown land for future generations the government needs to:

- Have as a management principle Ecologically Sustainable Development for the entire State
- Recognise the importance of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity and work cooperatively with other land managers to promote conservation values.
- Evaluate the social, cultural and environmental values before decisions are made about the future use of Crown lands
- Have open, transparent and accountable administration of Crown land including public participation in management.
- Keep Crown land in public ownership

Yours Truly
Phyllis Setchell