

**Submission
No 75**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Glenda Gartrell

Date received: 20 July 2016

A lease of crown land, the Talus Reserve has been acquired in the Willoughby municipality by a private enterprise. A former mayor [Noel Reidy] and councillors all looked at the application of this lease and rejected it as not in the interests of the community, as well as being against Council's obligations to manage public assets responsibly.

The subsequent mayor [Pat Reilly] and councillors who approved the lease did so without reference to or input by the community or any interested parties. Attempts to obtain documents relating to the approval process, together with the formal legal advice to Council, have met with protracted, circuitous actions by Council and decision-making by Council closed to public scrutiny.

On simple reckoning, the very low lease charged by Council and the high income earned by the leaseholder, is a big loss for the community. And this at a time when our council attempted to impose a huge rise in rates, and has acknowledged a significant shortfall in funding to cover maintenance of essential infrastructure.

Crown Land has been leased to a private enterprise while the community is being deprived of a community asset - open space - while the private leaseholder has earned a substantial profit through re-leasing the land for a profit making enterprise.