

**Submission
No 74**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Emily Suryn

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The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6,
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Emily Suryn

13 July 2016

Dear Sir

As a concerned citizen of Sydney and a former resident of the Parramatta area for more than 50 years, I welcome the inquiry into the mismanagement of Crown Lands.

My European background has allowed me to understand and value the preservation of culture and history. In Europe, many Countries have spent millions of dollars reconstructing the original cities (The Old Quarters) so that future generations remember the past and learn historical lessons that hopefully will ensure that past mistakes are not repeated and past heroics are not forgotten.

For this reason, I am appalled that our Australian Government has no pride and devalues what little historic buildings and open spaces that are left in Australia. Here in Parramatta, the Parramatta Park Trust land is being threatened by the State Government's proposal to take the land currently leased by Parramatta City Council for the Parramatta Memorial Swimming Pool (CROWN LAND: lot 2 DP 862127) to build a new Stadium with slightly larger spectator capacity and adding a new commercial zone which will all be either privately owned and/or much more expensive for the general public to use and access. This is being done without proper community consultation. Crown Land that exists in the heart of Parramatta should be preserved and solely left for future generations to enjoy. The selling off of Crown Land is not in keeping with the spirit of the law which considers Crown Land needs to be preserved and enhanced for future generations. Enhancement does not mean short term commercial profit by selling it off.

Also under threat of being mismanaged and used for private use is the Parramatta Girls Home known as Kambala (CROWN LAND: KAMBALA RESERVE TRUST – RESEVE NO. 1002899) on the Crown Land Register. This is part of the Female Factory Precinct on Fleet Street.

Of course we need to grow our cities but we must keep some parcels of land for the benefit of future generations. They need open spaces for leisure and community growing activities. Without the sense of community, the general health of a city declines and individuals feel alienated and start behaving in anti-social ways which are very costly to Australian society and that city in particular. It is much cheaper to prevent such trends by planning for the future and allowing communities to take pride in their heritage and remember historical lessons.

I look forward to a revision and a more sympathetic and caring approach to our Crown Lands.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Suryn