

**Submission
No 178**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Graeme Batterbury

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The adequacy of community input and consultation regarding the commercial use and disposal of Crown land

I personally have, and there is broad community concern that the current management and administration of Crown land, including in relation to its sale and leasing, is not transparent and there is little public accountability. For example:

- There is no readily available information to the public about how money raised from the sale, leasing and granting of other interests of Crown land is spent.
- It is not mandatory to prepare a plan of management for a Crown reserve under the Crown Lands Act 1989 that sets out what activities and development are permissible or what leases or licences are authorised.
- There is significant community concern regarding the program to speed up closure of undeveloped Crown roads and facilitate their sale. It is unclear what consideration has been given to the broader values of "paper" roads, particularly regarding their recreational access and environmental values. There has also been a lack of transparency and accountability in determining which roads should be closed, and sales have continued to occur despite strong objection from the community.
- In my local area and within my experience, there are many community groups that have significant concerns with the current mismanagement of Crown land reserved for open space or public recreation, particularly in circumstances where Crown land is leased for commercial purposes, reducing public access and impacting on environmental, cultural and social values. There is also considerable concern about the carrying out of commercial activities on Crown land which are unrelated to the particular purpose for which they were originally reserved. i.e. Foreshore recreation areas that have been taken over by "State-sponsored" management structures that implement usage strategies that preclude public access. e.g. Brunswick Heads holiday park management etc etc