

Submission
No 277

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The mismanagement of urban areas under the Baird Govt is quite significant and if this cavalier and dismissive attitude pervades to Crown Land then there will be catastrophic outcomes for NSW.

Crown land is used for a wide range of active and passive recreational activities including going to the beach, jogging, bushwalking, fishing, kayaking and bird watching. Crown land must be managed actively to ensure that public enjoyment of and access to these activities is maintained.

Crown land has significant environmental values, and when properly managed, contributes enormously to the conservation of native vegetation, wildlife habitat and corridors, biodiversity and coastal environments, wetlands, rivers and estuaries in NSW. The retention and appropriate management of Crown land will provide a long-term public benefit including in the form of ecosystem services, landscape resilience and river health.

Crown land of high conservation value needs active management including control of weeds and pest animals and ensuring that its ecological value is not undermined by commercial activities such as grazing.

Reducing active management of the Western Division of NSW threatens biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as the viability of agricultural land, and will significantly increase carbon emissions. Proposed changes to the way Crown land is managed in the Western Division include conversion of some leasehold land to freehold land, and removing requirements that management be consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Changes to Crown land management will be exacerbated by proposed changes to native vegetation laws in NSW which will see land clearing rules significantly weakened by the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Bill and Local Land Services Amendment Bill, including enabling broad-scale land clearing via the equity code.

Controlled grazing of TSRs has helped to conserve significant parcels of remnant vegetation including endangered ecological communities and threatened species in the Central Division. TSRs need appropriate grazing regimes and management to maintain their importance as wildlife corridors.

Please ensure that a responsible and inclusive attitude is a priority for the well being of this critically important area.