

Submission  
No 238

## INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

## SUBMISSION - CROWN LAND REVIEW

With ever-increasing urban development, the importance of protecting Crown Land should be even more prominent in future planning as it offers a range of important conservation values; from providing protection for, remnant vegetation, habitat for threatened species, habitat connectivity and irreplaceable coastal recreational areas.

With this in mind, we do not support the proposals set out in the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper in its current form as it lacks necessary safeguards and oversight. Without proper assessment these amendments used, with the proposed changes to the Biodiversity laws could lead to unregulated clearing.

There is a case for reviewing the legislation in regard to the management of public land, but it should not have a detrimental impact on the environment.

Urban living needs green areas for social, physical and mental well being. Parklands are only part of this picture. Preservation of the natural environment is another if not more important part.

As land is opened up for development, thought has to be given for recreational areas. These areas should involve as many wilderness sites as possible, to allow the needed escape from urban lifestyle.

Areas of significance for indigenous peoples should be regarded, as a separate issue and the importance in involving the local indigenous people in decision-making and land management cannot be overstated.

Areas of known or suspected wilderness significance should be handed over to the National Parks to be assessed and preserved.

Prior to any development an **independent environmental consultant** should assess an area and their report opened to all in the community for discussion.

### LOCAL AREAS

In our local area of the **Tilligerry Peninsula in Port Stephens**, there are a number of very important parcels of Crown Land that have significance for a number of reasons. This is an area with the unique chance to offer protection of flora and fauna for the future.

#### **Wildlife Corridors:**

The Tilligerry Peninsula hosts one of the few remaining koala populations that are under threat from all the perils of development. Their protection is vital and leaving space so that they have free movement between areas will allow for a healthier population and a very important tourist attraction. There are also a number of different macropod species that need room to move.

There have been sightings and traces found of other species that are known to be under threat; the Eastern Quoll, wombats, Reagent honeyeater to mention a few.

#### **Flora and fauna:**

There are many areas within the Tilligerry Peninsula that have unique flora and rare fauna; rare beautiful terrestrial orchids, sub tropical and littoral rainforest remnant areas, undisturbed open woodland. All these areas host their own unique flora and fauna. Preservation is important not just in their own right but for human use as well. Bird Watching clubs frequently use these areas and bush walkers all bringing well needed tourist dollars to local business.

### See Map of Tilligerry Peninsula

- **1. Tilligerry Habitat;** Begun by volunteers 20 years ago to showcase the rehabilitation of sand mined areas plus the inclusion of wet land forest containing stands of Eucalyptus robusta and Quinquervia that are also prominent koala food trees. There is so much more that could be said about this area. It is heavily used by the local public, tourists and for group activities and teaching opportunities. A great credit all those involved.
- **2. Lemon Tree Passage Hill;** Old Growth forest, 2 new species of orchids found in the last 12 months, undisturbed open forest/grass land, remnant sub tropical rainforest gully including Crab apple (Schizomeria ovata), Mock olive (Nesophytum longifolia) large variety of ferns. Large areas of Xanthorrhoea glauca. Cabbage tree palms (Livistona australis). A very special area and we feel should be under National Park management.
- **3. Koala/ wildlife corridor;** leading to protected areas of the foreshore area is often used by tourists and locals. Contains a number of unique orchid specimens and many different species of bird.
- **4. Old growth forest** and koala/wildlife corridor. Great bird watching habitat. Unique orchid habitat with some low lying flood areas during heavy rain giving it its own special ecosystem
- **5. Foreshore mangrove area.** Vitally important for the health of the creek and to aid wildlife movement. The entire foreshore should be protected from any form of damaging development.
- **6. Part of the wildlife corridor** linking both sides of the peninsula and in need of more study
- **7. Extension to Tanilba knoll!** should be carefully evaluated and added to **the knoll** as part of the National Park

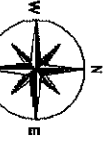
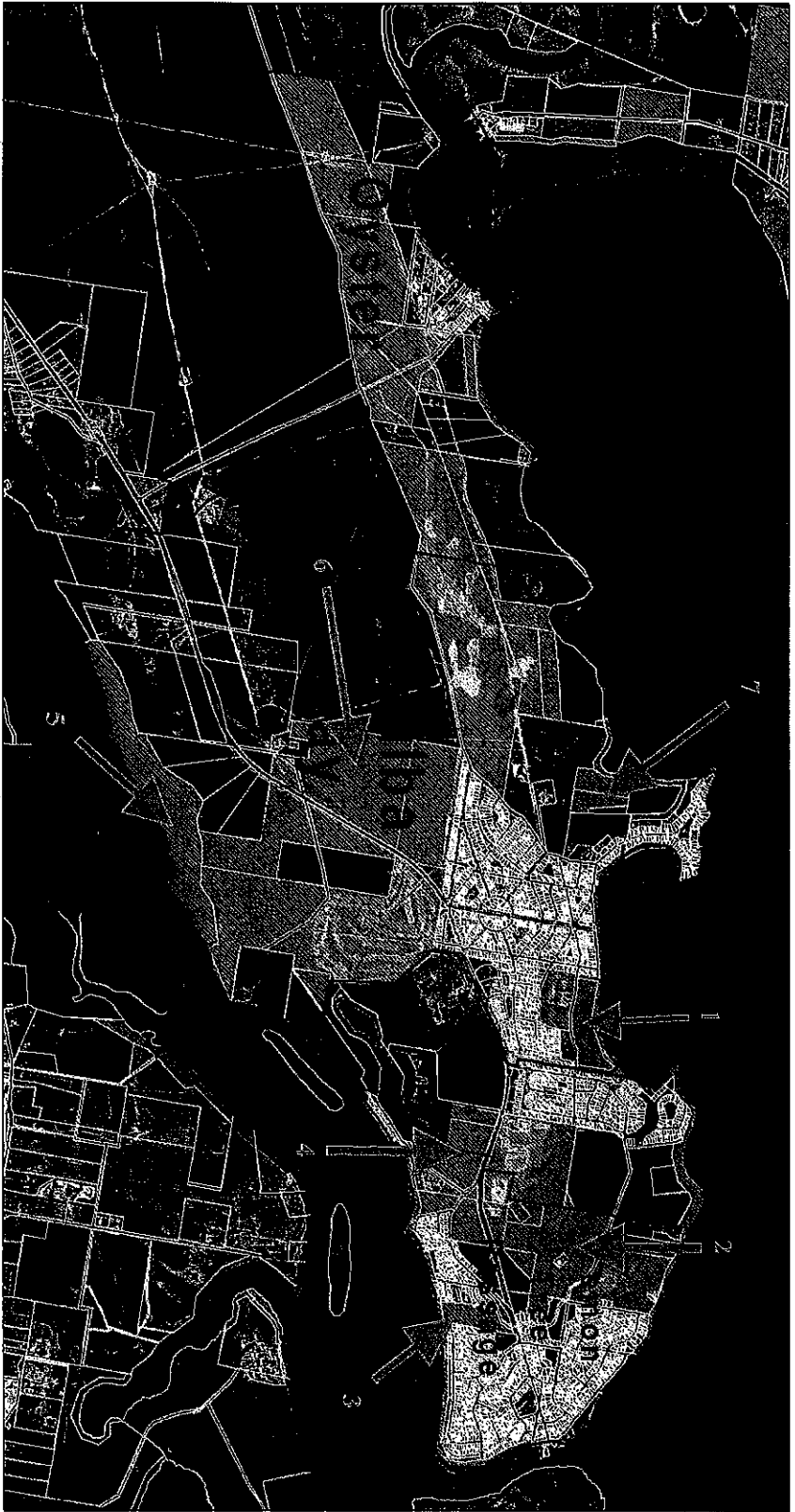
As can be seen from this very brief overview the Tilligerry Peninsula offers a great range of biodiversity with a number of unique ecosystems. It has a unique opportunity to be preserved as a special area for flora, fauna, residents and tourists.

Areas that have been sand mined must be rehabilitated with local species from that area and surrounds, to help prevent those species that are not endemic to this area taking hold.

**Conclusion:**

- The act is unwieldy and needs to be reviewed but the management of Crown Land must always include environmental protection principles. These existing objects should be retained in law.
- Crown land is public land and should be used for the public good.
- Any development should always follow the principles of ecological sustainable development and should be subject to community consultation.
- Any changes in Management practice especially with parcels that may be handed over to local councils must follow best practice, community engagement with strong environmental safeguards. Clarification of state versus local assessment criteria and effective reporting and accountability is also important. **There must be adequate provision to prevent this land being sold off.**
- Crown land that is assessed, as high conservation value must be given active management to control weeds and pest animals. With some sites thought should be given to limit vehicle access to prevent damage and dumping of rubbish.

# Crown Land Tilly



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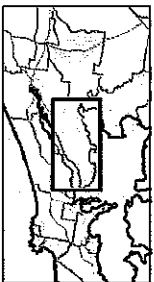


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SHEET LOCALITY

