

**Submission  
No 102**

## **INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Wollongong Neighbourhood Forum 5

**Date received:** 22 July 2016

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**Neighbourhood  
Forum 5**

**Wollongong's  
Heartland**



**Coniston, Figtree,  
Gwynneville, Keiraville,  
Mangerton, Mount  
Keira, Mount St  
Thomas, North  
Wollongong, West  
Wollongong,  
Wollongong City.**

14th July 2016

Sam Griffith  
Main Contact  
Parliamentary Inquiry into Crown Land  
gpsc6@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

**Submission on the Disposal and Management of Crown Land**

Neighbourhood Forum 5 is one of a number set up by Wollongong City Council to reflect the views of the local community and raise issues of concern. The Forum covers the central part of Wollongong, which has the city's densest residential population, and has an active membership of about 350 households.

Whilst the Forum is concerned about the continuing clearing of rural land with the consequences for species extinction and climate change, its primary concern is obviously urban land. There have been two recent quite different cases in our area where Crown Land has been alienated because of ill considered advice from Council officers, a complacent Council and a complicit Crown Lands office, despite community opposition. The first was the privatisation of a significant section of the most intensely used open space park near the city centre to allow a commercial recreation facility complete with reception areas and offices. The second relates to a laneway giving access to a large park in a central residential area which was closed by stealth and, on complaint, sold to the adjoining owner.

The Forum has long had a policy in relation to the alienation of Community Land (including Crown Land). The general principles for accepting the alienation are circumstances in which the land is **NOT**:

- 1 an integral part of a significant park;
- 2 giving possible access to a significant or lineal park;
- 3 able to be widely used for active or passive recreation activities;
- 4 likely to be worse maintained; or
- 5 already alienated by stealth.

This is not to say that the Forum is doctrinaire when applying these principles although they fully applied to the cases mentioned above. For example, we supported a proposal to sell a slither of land alienated by stealth but which served no useful purpose. We also supported the use of virtually unused land which is part of a significant park and is devoid of native vegetation, for a commercial recreation facility.

#### Recommendation

That the guidelines governing the disposal of Crown Land be made very clear and unambiguous based on the principles set out above.

Yours sincerely

David Winterbottom  
Secretary

#### Inquiry into Crown land

1.

That, notwithstanding the allocation of portfolios to the General Purpose Standing Committees, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 inquire into and report on Crown land in New South Wales, and in particular:

(a)

the extent of Crown land and the benefits of active use and management of that land to New South Wales,

(b)

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

(c)

the most appropriate and effective measures for protecting Crown land so that it is preserved and enhanced for future generations, and

(d)

the extent of Aboriginal Land Claims over Crown land and opportunities to increase Aboriginal involvement in the management of Crown land.

- 1 an integral part of a significant park;
- 2 giving possible access to a significant or lineal park;
- 3 able to be widely used for active or passive recreation activities;
- 4 likely to be worse maintained; or
- 5 already alienated by stealth.