

**Submission
No 107**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice Inc

Date received: 22 July 2016

Submission

To: NSW Upper House Inquiry into Crown Land in NSW - Attn: **The Hon. Paul Green MLC.**

Email: paul.green@parliament.nsw.gov.au

By: Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice - PO Box 65, Huskisson NSW 2540,

Email: exec@hwcv.org.au Web: www.hwcv.org.au

Date: 24 July 2016

Dear NSW Upper House Inquiry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice (HWCV) is a Community Consultation Body (CCB) to Shoalhaven City Council.

Whilst many facets of the 5 May 2014, NSW Government Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (NSW Trade and Investment) - *Crown Lands Legislation White Paper 2014* - seem intuitive, nonetheless the HWCV remains cautious about the implementation.

1. Could we have a more manageable name for the above-mentioned government department please!
2. Sale and disposal of parcels of Crown Land *should require the consent of the community*, and protections need to be in place to ensure this. It's not good enough simply to have transparency of notification. **LGA Councils should be mandated to obtain the demonstrable majority support of local communities before proceeding to sale.**

The Crown Land estate should not be subject to predatory actions of local council administrations seeking to balance the council books.

Too many LGA councils interpret Trustee management with de facto ownership.

3. Similarly, with **parks and sportsgrounds, if management is to be transferred to councils**, then the **existing rights of the community should not be diluted** by the attendant update of the Local Government Act.
4. The proposed **online portal with listing information is an excellent, and overdue idea**, and please can it provide quality **cadastral information** as well. We have the NBN coming soon, we can handle the downloads.

The Huskisson experience

5. **Aboriginal Land Claim:** there is an Aboriginal Land Claim over a small crown block in Currambene St, Huskisson, a former church yard. It is centrally located, and surrounded by development. It would be ideal as a future car parking site. But because of the land claim, we can't move forward with the proposed car park. This has frustrated both Council and the community.

In this case study, a majority community/Council opinion is being stymied. So a mechanism to force a breakthrough needs to be available within the legislation.

6. Community centre - proposed sale, Dent St Huskisson: the community only found out by reading an unrelated council draft plan, that there is a long term goal to sell the Huskisson Community Centre, located on Crown Land.

In this case study, the legislation needs to protect the community from potential ambushes, through strong notification and consent processes as described above.

7. Overflow campground, Jervis St Huskisson: as a community, we've had no end of friction with Council's ongoing desire increasingly to commercialize a Reserve for Public Recreation in this location, involving tree removal and facility installation. The Reserve is evolving into a formalized caravan park, against the wishes both of the community and the reserve users, including the informal (paying) holiday campers.

In this case study, a majority opinion of community and visitors is being steamrolled by the Council as Trustee manager. The legislation needs to protect community rights in such cases.

Kind Regards,

Garry Kelson

Chair, Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

PO Box 65, Huskisson NSW 2540

Email: exec@hwcv.org.au

Web: www.hwcv.org.au

24 July 2016