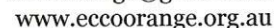


INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange
Date received: 22 July 2016



incursion of inappropriate activities on ecological sensitively Crown lands such as hunting and mountain bike riding, and that it is not mandatory that all Crown land should have a plan of management.

- ⌘ We oppose the NSW State Government's proposed changes to the Native Vegetation Act which will see land clearing rules considerably weakened. We are concerned that the changes in the Act will have environmentally threatening implications for the management of Crown land.
- ⌘ There are proposed changes to the management of Crown Land in the Western Division of NSW, which include conversion of some leasehold and to free hold land, and removing requirements that management be consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Such proposals threaten biodiversity and ecosystems and will affect carbon emissions through possible increased land clearing due to the proposed relaxation of land clearing legislation.

Travelling stock routes and reserves are a vital resource

It is acknowledged that Crown land in the form of TSR's and travelling stock routes has been an important part of Australia's livestock industry for nearly two centuries. TSR's and travelling stock routes continue to be important to the pastoral industry, especially in times of such natural disasters as fire, flood or drought as a source of supplementary grazing.

They also play a vital conservation role as areas which support biodiversity. Because grazing is strictly controlled, there is a minimum of disturbance, resulting in stock reserves being rich repositories of diverse flora and fauna. The stock routes have the capacity to provide corridors for the movement of native fauna. This capacity is becoming increasingly important in the face of continued habitat destruction due to development, mining and the increasing pressures of agriculture and the effects of climate change.

Outside of national parks and state forests, TSRs and the routes that connect them make an important contribution to the linear connectivity of vegetation remnants, allowing for the movement of fauna across the landscape.

It is vital that TSRs and travelling stock routes be retained to fulfil the functions that they have done so well and for so long in our country, and that public access to them be retained. It is therefore of the utmost importance that these lands remain in public ownership and are funded and managed appropriately. For this to happen Crown land must remain in Trust by the State on behalf of the public.

We must work together to retain our Crown Land

Crown land is public land. It must be protected against sell off and poor management. We must preserve and maintain its social and ecological values in such a way that it remains a valuable resource for generations to come. This can only occur if we have clear, consistent transparent rules to promote and maintain the conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystems contained therein. This can only happen if State and local Governments work with other land managers such as the National Parks and Wildlife service, Local land Services to make it so.

Nick King
President
ECCO