

**Submission
No 316**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Peter Prineas

Date received: 24 July 2016

24 July 2016

The Hon Paul Green MLC

Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee on NSW Crown Lands

Dear Sir,

I understand the NSW government is proposing to change the way Crown lands in this state are managed.

I understand the government intends that Crown lands are to be commercialised and transferred to local councils.

These changes are inadvisable in the absence up-to-date state-wide mapping of Crown lands and against a background of recent changes to the land title system that have made it more difficult and costly to ascertain lands that have Crown land status.

The changes are also inadvisable given inadequate consultation and a lack of readily accessible information about the sale, leasing and granting of interests in Crown land.

Recently we have seen Crown lands converted to other uses to facilitate major infrastructure projects in the absence of adequate merit appeal processes (as for the Sydney Light Rail and Westconnex projects).

The status of an area of Crown land should not be changed in the absence of rules and procedures that fully take into account and protect the environmental, cultural and social values of such lands. Any new legislation governing the use, management, disposal and alienation of Crown lands should reflect these requirements.

I ask that your Committee's report reflect my concerns.

I also ask that the Committee's report lie on the table of the House for a period of at least three months so that any legislation that is produced has the benefit of adequate public discussion and consultation.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Prineas.