

Submission
No 318

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24 July 2016

Partially
Confidential

Comment on the Upper House Review of Crown Lands

24th July 2016

As a permanent resident of the Shoalhaven for over 25 years, and a visitor to the area with family since childhood both enthusiastic birdwatchers involved in many community groups we care about our local environment and the area and would like to make comments on the Crown lands in our location.

(1) It has been noted over the years a lack of adequate community access to the St Georges Basin waterway via foreshore reserves. The area has grown and residential development increases day-by-day placing pressure on the need for natural (passive) and recreational areas.

It appears Crown land foreshore properties have been leased to residents who own foreshore reserve properties. This leased land has given them the power to restrict access and also start commercial activities on the land.

It also appears that the residents land can then be sold with the Crown land lease intact, a fact that certainly gives the residents greater financial returns than without the lease would have done and still a loss for the general community.

I question the benefit financially and activity wise to the wider community with this type of lease.

The St Georges Basin area would greatly benefit with the addition of foreshore reserve properties maintained/retained as public/community land (which is the correct use).

Surely a lease such as this could at least be ended/restricted with the sale of the property?

(2) The sale of Crown Land within the State of NSW would be a retrograde step for all communities across the state. This public owned land must be retained for the use and pleasure of future generations and also maintained to ensure the high biodiversity values many of them now hold. This applies to isolated areas and Travelling Stock Routes and all Crown Lands held by the NSW Government in trust for the public. The TSR have been managed and controlled to ensure they do not degrade to ensure use in the future and now hold many EEC's, habitat for wildlife and Threatened Species (flora and fauna). It would be a tragic loss for them to be sold.

Thank you

24th July 2016