

**Submission  
No 337**

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

**Name:** Mrs Ingrid Maganov

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Dear Mr Green,

## SUBMISSION TO THE NSW UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

It is apparent the key feature of the original legislation regarding Crown Land presented and passed by our forefathers, your predecessors, in the Parliament was and is that Crown Land remain in the public domain for community use now and into the future and in fact, forever more.

I believe this public enquiry should not be permitted to find ways to change this inherent outcome that public land be taken from the public and handed over to developers at the whim of the government of the day.

The government of the day should be entrusted to keep Crown Land for these purposes or be so transparent and accountability that any decision about any and each parcel of Crown Land contemplated for a change should be discussed, consulted, communicated and negotiated via an extensive, well-established and well-understood community process which takes the default position that Crown Land remains Crown Land unless there is strong community support and extenuating or extraordinary circumstances.

This submission is therefore presented in the belief that Crown land must be retained for all intents and purposes in the hands of the public and for free public access and comprehensive community use.

There should be no assumption or belief that this community use and access of Crown Land should be abandoned or modified purely for economic benefit or gain of developers which is what seems to be occurring on a regularly occurring basis at sites as diverse as popular beaches, large areas of playing space, land demonstrating substantial or significant linkages to our historical, cultural, natural and Indigenous past.

The expectation of our local communities and the public is one of guardianship by Government and their appointed Trustees. Neither Government nor their Trustees should assume their role first and foremost is to negotiate uses that enable the Crown Lands be placed in the hands of a few for their profit or private benefit.

It is woefully inadequate that the ability to lodge a merit appeal is no longer possible and even more striking is the fast-tracking of major projects on Crown Land which has led to outcomes that include poor design, significant environmental impacts and economic benefits occurring for the few over the wider community e.g. south-east light rail and the Royal Randwick racecourse hotel development.

In short then, this submission recommends the following:

1. the Government must retain Crown Land for the widest possible public use and access as intended in the original decision to designate it Crown Land in the first place

2. any decision, consideration or change about any parcel of Crown Land should be discussed, consulted, communicated and negotiated via an extensive, well-established and well-understood community process which errs on the side that Crown Land remains Crown Land unless there is strong community support and extenuating or extraordinary circumstances
3. the expectation of our local communities and the public is one of guardianship by Government and their appointed Trustees not negotiation or consideration by Government or their Trustees that these entrusted Crown Lands be placed in the hands of a few for their profit or private benefit
4. in order to properly account and understand the extent of existing and historic Crown Land across NSW, a moratorium be placed on changing the status of Crown Land until there is a statewide register of historic and Crown Land established and accessible to the community, and available in GIS mapping formats, indicating original classification, its past and current uses, and changes made or under consideration as well as the value of benefits and key beneficiaries of such changes in classification or usage.

Ingrid Maganov