

Submission
No 339

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24 July 2016

Partially
Confidential

Submission – Upper House Inquiry into Crown Land

My submission includes protection of Crown Land in West Goulburn that is conjoined with Goulburn Mulwaree Council land that has been put aside as a reserve. Both these areas have a local Landcare group in the process of picking up rubbish, fencing and weed removal as we speak. There may also be some re-colonisation of local species that were originally cleared from the site in Goulburn's early history.

The members of this group may be small in number but they are dedicated to the cause of creating a natural environment in the City limits for all the community to enjoy. The area is already used for jogging, bushwalking (dogs must be on a leash), bird watching and ecological observation.

The area is an important refuge for native reptiles, mammals, birds and plants.

For the West Goulburn Bushland Reserve we have lists of plants, mammals, birds and reptiles as well as photos of quite a lot of them. I have attached the lists in this submission.

I also wish to make a submission for the Travelling Stock Reserves in the Narrawa District, one on the Fish River Road which I am most familiar with and another on the Boorowa Road opposite the Narrawa Hall. The Narrawa TSR has many similar plants to the West Goulburn Bushland Reserve, although both areas have species specific to both.

I am in the process of doing a survey of the Fish River Road TSR. Initially, I have concentrated on the understorey forbs, mainly the many species of terrestrial orchids, yam daisy, Hibbertia species, Drosera and many others. This area is frequented by Swamp Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Wallaroo, Echidna, Possums, Snakes, Skinks and very probably more that I have not seen as yet. I have found *Delma inornata* (legless lizard) further up the Fish River Road and they would probably occur in the TSR as well.

If the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Bill and Local Land Services Amendment Bill are passed, the protection of these areas take on even more significance with regards to conservation value of all the plants and inhabitants. They would become an even greater educational tool regarding what native vegetation would be found in this area prior to farming. They could be also used as a seed banks for restoration of farmland - with careful supervision.

These areas have plants and birds that are listed on the EPBC Act List of Threatened Species. The community as a whole is part of the 'White Box-Yellow-Box-Blakeley's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland' that was listed on 17 May 2006 as critically endangered.

There is currently a Native Title Claim on the part of the West Goulburn Reserve which is Crown Land – our Landcare group is only doing what would be done by the traditional owners anyway and we would welcome their input with regard to its ongoing preservation.

These areas of Crown Land must stay in public ownership, held on Trust by the State on behalf of the people of NSW if our work is to continue.

The Upper House must recognise the importance of and protect these ecosystems and the services they provide to the local communities as recreational, birdwatching, educational, ecological, seed bank and native fauna refuge areas.