

**Submission  
No 140**

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

**Organisation:** Knitting Nannas Against Gas, Armidale Loop

**Date received:** 24 July 2016

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## Submission: Crown Land. Parliamentary Inquiry

We members of Knitting Nannas against Gas, Armidale Loop appreciate the opportunity to comment on the review of the management of Crown Lands.

The management of crown lands impacts on many issues, including public use of lands and many environmental concerns.

Coal mining in Leard Forest, near Breeza and the treat of mining in other forests on the Liverpool Plains is destroying the habitat of our native fauna and flora, sometimes to near extinction. Coal seam gas mining in Pilliga Forest will further damage native habitat. Proposed changes to the biodiversity legislation will allow farmers to increase clearing of native vegetation. With this level of destruction it is even more important that crown lands management remains with the state government, and that legislation require vegetation to be protected.

Crown Lands protect unique landscapes and provide habitat for flora and fauna, including many threatened species and endangered ecological communities. In highly cleared landscapes, as it is in the New England region, crown lands provide vital habitat linkages between conservation reserves.

There would be not protection of crown land assessed as having local significance if transferred to local councils. Councils could then sell or its use be changed without State government oversight.

There has been insufficient mapping of current use, also the social and environmental values of crown land. Crown Land may contain wetlands, remnant vegetation, sports fields etc. This land must remain public property.

Crown lands must be preserved for the benefit of the community and our future generations. These lands are fundamental to our social, economic and environmental well-being and their management must conform to ecologically sustainable development principles.

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