

**Submission
No 191**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND

I write to express my concern re the new legislation concerning Crown Land in NSW.

1 Transferring Crown Land to local councils.

Councils have not been allowed to increase rates as much as in other states and as a consequence are always short of money for the services that ratepayers expect. Councils will be tempted and maybe even obliged to sell parcels of Crown Land that come into their control. ExCrown Lands will be sold for whatever councils can get and land belonging to the community will be lost forever.

Please don't transfer Crown Land to councils.

2 Allowing the conversion of some Crown Land that are grazing leases to freehold.

All Crown Land has conservation values. With other legislation proposing to reduce the protection of Native Vegetation selling Crown Land will accelerate the vegetation clearing rate and greatly threaten the retention of native animals and plants in these newly freehold areas.

Please do not allow the conversion of Western Crown Land grazing leases into freehold.

3 Transforming the Crown Lands Division into a Public Trading Enterprise. This move can only be for the purpose of selling Crown Land. The other functions eg land management now carried out by the Crown Lands Division will be come subjugated to the urgency to get money from the sale of public assets.

Please do not change the Crown Lands Division into a Public trading Enterprise.

4 Reviewing all Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves.

Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves also have cultural and environmental values. In my youth my brothers and I enjoyed the presence of Travelling Stock Routes as part of our cultural heritage and as a place to camp and see some native vegetation and birds in areas more heavily exploited by the grazing industry.

Other Factors

Much of this Liberal governments activities and reports are shrouded in secrecy and partial information and there has been inadequate public consultation.

Social, cultural and environmental values appear to be given little weight. Some areas may be subject to aboriginal land rights claims.

Conclusion

All Crown Lands must be preserved for the benefit of the community and future generations. These lands are fundamental to our social, economic and environmental wellbeing and their management must conform to Ecologically Sustainable Development principles. This proposed legislation puts all Crown Lands at risk.

Peter Martyn