

**Submission  
No 182**

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

**Name:** John Hexall & Janet Moore

**Date received:** 24 July 2016

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Dear Sir,

RE: PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION AND SALE OF PUBLIC LAND BY  
GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL.

Attached please find a list of concerns we have re the above proposal. A copy of this has been forwarded via email to all of the ten Gosford City Councillors for their information.

Yours faithfully,

**John Hextall**

**Janet Moore**

Encl.

**With reference to the proposed reclassification and sale of parcels of Public land by Gosford City Council we have the following questions re this action:**

1. How can Council claim it has approx. \$15million surplus and then need to sell valuable and irreplaceable green space areas and parklands to pay for infrastructure?
2. What approved and transparent process has Council followed to evaluate this land for sale and its advice to the Public of this detailed process?
3. What is Council's real intention to use this sale money for? If as claimed for infrastructure, what specifically does this mean and how will the ratepayers and general public be involved in this process to determine worthwhile priorities and value for money?
4. Prior to the sale of the land, how will Council transparently advertise the said land to the general public and how may they (ratepayers and general public), participate in the purchase process if desired?
5. What clear and practical provision is Council taking in providing additional green space/parklands for projected future population growth in the Central Coast area?
6. How is Council taking into account the demolition of single homes and allowing rebuilding of many units/town houses on these sites with minimal(if any) provision on these developments for garden/green access - if parks and green space areas are sold off?
7. How does Council legitimately justify contradicting its own policies on green space/parklands etc?
8. How has Council investigated the history of the proposed parcels of land for sale given that some of these have been bequested by past owners for the public's use and safekeeping?
9. How will the results of this investigation be advised to the public to confirm due process has been followed?
10. How will Council answer all the above questions in clear and transparent terms to the public?

We await Council's prompt written answers to these questions thank you,

Dear Sir,

**Re: PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION AND SALE OF PUBLIC LAND BY  
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL**

Further to our documented list of concerns dated 5 February 2016 forwarded to Mr Paul Anderson, CEO Gosford City Council and his acknowledgement of receipt of same, we now wish to add the following.

Since the above date we have attended all council and public meetings relating to this contentious matter and have noted the substantial groundswell of public resistance to the proposed reclassification and sale of public lands by the now Central Coast Council

Our observations and findings have further galvanised our energies into supporting the community's suspicions and distaste for the wilful and ill informed actions of council to sell public lands. For example constant barrage of public statements directed at Councils' inadequate information, policies and motives to sell off public lands has been noted. i.e.

Very briefly matters focussed at the Council are as follows:

**1. Inadequate information:**

- (a) Lack of notification to sell public green space areas, parklands and playgrounds
- (b) Withholding information on site locations, details and only releasing this under extreme pressure arising a question of transparency etc.

**2. Policies**

- (a) Have obviously not been observed throughout the process
- (b) Council's admission it does not have individual site plans, maintenance programs – environment knowledge of identified areas only “generic statement.”
- (c) No documented terms of reference or data re identification, history, environmental values or public usage records of areas etc.

**3. Motives:**

- (a) Are very questionable re sale to direct monies into infrastructure etc.  
Recent council announcements of budget surpluses contradicts this and questions priorities/values etc.
- (b) With current and projected population growth and development of multi unit accommodation with minimal open spaces, a greater need for **more** green spaces and playground areas is obvious not **less** by selling off.

The above few are only examples of our brief comments, and barely touch the surface of public feelings towards Council's intentions. We are sure you will be inundated with many greater detailed and passionate submissions over this matter from other community members.

In closing, we implore you as trustee of our beautiful and valuable natural assets, to immediately rescind the proposal for the sale of these lands and so ensure the security and enjoyment of these green areas for present and future generations.

We await your notification of a favourable outcome to our community's wishes..

We enclose a copy of our original submission of concerns for your information..

Yours faithfully,

**John Hextall**

**Janet Moore**

Encl.