

Submission
No 188

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into Crown Land.

I am making this submission in the belief and wish that Crown Land should be retained in perpetuity in the hands of the public and for its free access and use.

[That all uses of these lands must be Ecologically sustainable](#)

That public ownership of such places as Centennial Park and Moore Parklands; Bondi Beach; Hyde Park; Prince Alfred; Parsley Bay; Watsons Bay; Observatory Hill; Martin Place; Aboriginal lands; public beaches and reserves; sports and showgrounds and many more of the like in Australia should be maintained with this common purpose for the public, in, as has been understood and expected by the public, in Perpetuity for them.

[That the Public should be involved in the say over proposed uses as a matter of due process.](#)

I bring to the attention of the Committee that access to a register of Crown Lands from the land Title's Department appears to not exist as a user friendly document- each parcel needing to be identified before it can be tracked. I make also reference to an example of order no: 8327533119 on application when tracked from 1987 as DP739594 it was subject to a resumption application 28/10/87 and passed to local Government area and transferred??in 2003...1/7/15..."Department Dealing"...No other information is known on this land yet it seems to sit in an area currently being used by the CBD and South East Light Rail and raises many questions on how these lands are being transferred and administered...How many of these parcels sit in this unknown situation?

Sydney City Council have a similar situation and on enquiry Randwick Council have not even responded.

How anyone can plan effectively when they do not have this information places these areas in grave danger through this lack of recognition and need for protection. It also speaks to an attitude and gap in administration that has perhaps been too long in the fixing.

It is sincerely hoped this Inquiry will indeed fix this in the ways expected by the public who effectively own these lands

Parliaments e-brief news concludes that ..." The management of Crown Land has a long and complex history, as does the relevant legislation. The latest reform proposals are substantial..."

It explains many changes and on review, [from which](#) it could be argued the term and direction of "Public Trading Enterprise" from "Crown Lands Division" would seem to reflect more of a commercial land use lean than what was and is expected of Government, Governance and the responsibility of Government, by the public, in these matters [under current influences](#). It is clear from recent public outcry [over Kippax Lake in the Centennial & Moore Park area](#), their expectations are not being met by the administration and direction of management of these lands.

The expectation, of myself and the public you will encounter in these submissions and whom I speak to, is one of guardianship. To provide the open use and enjoyment of these lands without exclusion by private enterprise and commercial profits to our public and children.

I will take the example of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Parklands.

Recently these areas have been very much in the public eye as a State Government minister sought to negotiate over them in association with a sporting body. A corporation, that while it may be viewed compassionately has an interest in bringing sport to the public...has somehow taken over the grounds it leases for commercial profit and with the use of monetary restriction, imposed an exclusion zone on this Public land.- Thankfully the Premier stepped in under immense and heart felt public pressure [in regards to this lake but the problem of the existing use still remains](#) . [The prospective of this style of lease and use continuing without Public approval is not welcomed.](#)

We also note the SCG also exerts this same exclusion on the public use of these lands. Likewise the ATC. This latter an area of great local ill will in relation to the CBD and South East Light Rail addition to the devastation of the Centennial Parklands and the public environment by the removal of significant trees and the again exclusion of the public from these lands. [With enormous environmental loss to them.](#)

It is noted on examination that some parcels of land have been acquired in this and previous dealings (such as the old tram line) the stabling yards on the ATC leased land and monetary exchange suggests a commercial purchase of lands. OUR LANDS. [The priceless artefacts and heritage this land holds in explanation of these “ finds” irreplaceable when removed from their current location and relativity. This relocating of them from this area of Crown Land also unwelcomed by the public.- this is deemed inappropriate and does little to show the world what Australia’s values are in a good light.](#)

The lands of the Centennial and Moore Park areas are of particular significance as this land was bequeathed by the representative of the Crown when this colony was established. The CHARTER under which it was to be administered is clear in the intended purpose...for the free and open use, recreation and enjoyment of the public....

Clearly this is not occurring. When was the last time anyone could just turn up and kick a ball with their son or daughter at the cricket ground (I would hazard a guess that it was before the leases were entered into).

- In towns like Wagga many years ago the local tennis courts were maintained by the council for the public use (On a public park) all that was done was a sign of obligation was erected that the courts be watered and bagged and the nets put away securely at the end of play. A public benefit and recognition of shared responsibility created and adhered to. This is what the rates and taxes provided for. –The health benefit in providing this for our childrens’ healthy aspirations immeasurable. So it is with these lands. But we have lost this in the paper work. I feel something is lost in the way we currently operate and needs better ways to be found.

The taking of our trees and the environmental degradation that has been allowed by this connection to ministry of roads, transport, infrastructure, over the trusted guardianship expected of the “TRUST” is [seen as](#) in need of review. In this particular plan of the CBD and South East Light Rail, where capacity is not met by the mode chosen to the extent that more negative impacts on the community and its trees and land calls for a better process and direction . The failure of Transport and Roads to decrease the congestion with this plan but rather increases it and diminishes resources of Roads, ALL need Inquiry. [The compliance](#)

given from the "TRUST" questionable in the public interest. Diligence and Public approval neither sort or given. In Fact the reaction of the public to this abuse immense.

The Moore Park "SuprCentre" possession of years past...on Centennial and Moore Parkland grounds. How did this happen? When the areas across the road were cheap and available how did it end up on Moor Park Lands?...This is in need of investigation for clearly the public expectation of guardianship has been broken in such a dealing.

The old tram line yards when dismantled, did these lands pass back to the public?? Department of Lands records seem patchy and should not be the publics position to hold this to account **but rather the responsibility of their representatives**. It does indeed need checking though and it should be in public possession once more.

The fact that the ATC has gained a licence from council to build a hotel on this land is NOT in the public best interest **by any stretch of the imagination**. It is clearly a commercial for profit move on prime real estate. - **The question of propriety in administration here is mind boggling to many in the public domain.** -

The question of should the racecourse, after 100 years still be where it is? Has never been put to the community it impacts. Out of town people who bring their money to the venue; contribute to the ATC purse and leave many in financial debt from gambling; urinate in public as they step off the buses after drinking all the way to the venue; **rolled into taxis etc. for the ride home**; congesting our roads and calling on our Police force to crowd manage **said 22,000 people** (while many of the police use this as extra job work, it is, in a time of real trouble, depleting resources). Does the community it steals parking and amenity from, as its population has increased over the time, WANT this in their neighbourhoods?...I suggest they will say NO. But have they been asked...NO!... should this be reviewed...YES! was it before the recent renewal of lease...NO

The allowing of a Christian youth group in occupying these lands is another use that causes so much economic hardship to the local community; again steals parking amenity (made even worse buy the CBD and South East Light Rail)

This arrangement also has not been reviewed. An agreement that occurred before the OLYMPIC Homebush facility was built and it is there they should be directed. Why is this not reviewed in the public best interest?

My point in **these** references is that it indicates the guardianship and appropriate use of the lands is not being administered in a manner that is conducive to the publics best interests or reviewed. It seems once a lease is in place it is somewhat given over. This **is**, once again NOT seen as the expectation of the public. Nor intension of the "Charter" under which these particular lands are to be administered for the free public use for their recreation and enjoyment in perpetuity.

Barangaroo is another very prominent example of lands given over to what is hardly an asset to the Public community RATHER a commercial tourism venture with the STATE government, on lands that should have been handled better for the free access and enjoyment of the public. As this development currently stands it is extremely different to

the original scope of project and again a disappointment in use of our lands and administration by STATE and protections.

Moves on Watsons Bay to exclude for private profit is yet another local issue in the South East as this government is not controlled in its looking at "other Uses". This is also seen as an area that needs a non political barrier established on All our public and Crown Lands.

The Entertainment Quarter and the Horden Pavilion /Show Grounds of old. Poses yet another area of appropriate and public use.

The selling to the Harvey/Singleton group of these lands for high rise housing is also an issue of appropriate use and brings exclusivity and exclusion issues with it. This is again not contributing to the Public impression and expectation being met. (It is my belief that if they were given their money back the public would be happy and see it as a step in the right direction)

One thing is for sure This type of transfer of Public Crown land is not looked on in a good light. – It is worrying as to what "use" will be put to many smaller towns and centres if this approach is allowed to continue unchecked as well.

Audit of funds on these lands is perhaps also, greatly needed. For Public assessment of the proper use and practice of administration.

-Much is made of the "Trust" being full of Bankers and the terminology of a trust account and management is not synonymous here. In fact the mercenary element is undesirable and needs review.

Our Universities and other assets have also fallen under this direction from state and Federal direction and in the purity of interpretation on what these assets provide for the Country , should not be so real estate profit driven, as more and more housing is positioned on UNSW Public Lands.

The recent rearrangement of Moore Park soccer and netball fields due to the CBD and South East Light Rail impacts, Now sees fewer netball courts as soccer was said to bring more rental of fields, as one resident was told. The result is shorter games for the netball teams. Interesting is also the acquisition by the Centennial and Moore Park Trust of the company that previously leased the courts etc.

I believe this is again in need of Public explanation and examination of guidelines of the "Trust" and the direction it is undertaking.

[A closer and more rigid Auditing is required by an appropriate source free of influence.](#)

I call for this full and comprehensive public investigations and for an immediate moratorium on any Crown and Public land being leased; sold or developed or approvals reviewed, until this inquiry reports are finished ; seen and reviewed by the public ; and that public approval is given:

in relation to:

Appropriate Direction, use and administration;

Audits on Administrated lands, practices and monies [in line with the public expectation of preservation for their long term best interests and continued access and use of these lands;](#)

Aboriginal and other significant protections included in administration process ([making note here that ALL Australians hold these as a cherished and personal part of their lands and history](#)) ;

Public input and voice assured in an appropriate process for the future of our Crown and Public Lands.

Absolute Protection and sustainability insured.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret Hogg