

**Submission
No 207**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Helen Schwarz

Date received: 25 July 2016

UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND

Dear Secretary and Committee Members,

Only today was I made aware of the review of the management of Crown Lands. I would like to voice my concerns about the proposed changes.

I am a long-time member of a Landcare group working on the riparian restoration of a local waterway; revegetating largely “cleared” bushland and a Travelling Stock route so as to create improved habitat for flora and corridors to enable native birds and marsupials to migrate safely within their environment which was largely unconnected areas of remnant bush prior to this community project.

I consider that Crown Lands provide enormous environmental, educational, cultural and social value to the population. Landcare activities have provided my local community with a means of becoming involved in conservation and the beautification of the Armidale townscape and public recreational (Passive and active) areas.

I never cease to be amazed at the enthusiasm and commitment of our local school children in projects which provide enhanced habitat for local plants and animals, including many threatened species and endangered ecological communities. The changes mooted for the ownership and management of Crown Lands seem to me to denigrate the importance of our community's spirit and involvement in owning and conserving our environment for our children and future generations.

Crown Lands are fundamental to our social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being. Economically sustainable development principles should always be at the fore front of the management and public use of Crown Lands.

Helen Schwarz