

**Submission
No 209**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr Elisabeth Karplus

Date received: 25 July 2016

Dear Mr Green

As a keen birdwatcher with considerable concern for the habitats of birds, I wish to comment on the upcoming Upper House Enquiry into Crown Lands. The NSW Government has been undertaking a review of the Crown lands legislation and I understand that this may result in transfer of some Crown Lands to local councils, conversion of some Western Lands grazing leases to freehold and reviewing all Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves. Much Crown Land has significant environmental importance. In some areas Crown Land provides significant habitat for woodland and other bird species particularly in areas where otherwise much of the land is taken up by crops which provide no habitat for birds or other fauna. Increased clearing of grazing leases following conversion to freehold will adversely affect several threatened bird species. I believe that Crown Lands should remain in public ownership to ensure that their environmental values are protected.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Elisabeth Karplus