

**Submission
No 230**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Peter Sansom

Date received: 2 August 2016

25-7-2016

Dear Sir

It has been brought to my attention at very late notice that there may be proposed changes to the Crown Lands Act. May I be permitted to state the following:

Crown land should stay in the hands of the state for the benefit of the tax payers of New South Wales as their money goes to the lands maintenance. Crown land needs to be protected from exploitation by private enterprise groups for financial gain.

Crown land should be maintained for use in a manner which will be of benefit to the community and should be protected for such use by future generations. Such benefits should include cultural and heritage status.

There needs to be transparency and accountability with the management of Crown lands. This hasn't always been the case.

There has been little if any public engagement or community consultation in the decision making process with the use of public land. In particular the speed of the closure of some public roads despite strong community objections. This was to allow the sale of the land.

Crown land should not be available for transfer of ownership. In some cases, developers have held powerful positions which have allowed them to gain approvals outside normal and legal processes which have resulted in mining in sensitive places like beaches as well as the sale of park land. These actions have been of no benefit to tax payers, rate payers or the community as a whole.

Increased aboriginal involvement is needed to protect cultural, heritage and environmental values.

Locally. The closure, removal of the railway into Newcastle and the possible transfer of the land for high rise development has had a negative effect on the communities of Newcastle, Lake

Macquarie and the Hunter region. The action was carried without meaningful consultation. The rail land must stay in public ownership as a transport corridor if the city is to benefit at all.

King Edward Park is a wonderful and popular piece of parkland that enhances the city of Newcastle. It must stay in public ownership and none of the land should be sold for development. The rate payers of Newcastle have paid for the up keep of King Edward Park for many years; that is why it must stay in public ownership.

Crown land is the land of the tax payers and it should be used for the long term benefit of the people of New South Wales.

Please give this the consideration it deserves.

Yours faithfully:

Peter Sansom