

Submission
No 258

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name : Ms Margaret Pontifox OAM

Date received: 3 August 2016

General Purpose Standing Committee. 30/7/16

Dear Committee, no 6.

I write to you with much shock and concern about what our future, let alone our present, will look like unless someone really looks at what is happening in M.S.W.

On 28/7/16 I read an article headed "Crown land inquiry public hearing in Gosford"!! What a shock!! We had NO idea any of this was in the Government's sights. By the way the story was in the local "Coast Community news".

Disappointingly I can only legally write to you, as an individual, as I am Hon. Secretary of Mangrove Mountain and districts community group but none of us had heard about this matter and don't meet till next week.

As a long standing community group we have been VERY concerned about the management of crown land for many years. We want to alert you to some of the matters of concern before any more time passes.

Here is a summary of a short list:

1. Our heritage listed Mangrove Mountain hall on a very small community parcel of land. In the past people at functions parked on the crown reserve adjoining

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known as Mangrove Mtn Reserve. In recent years the trust declared no more parking there. This has been dreadful as the friction - uncertainty, was horrible.

Recently, I offered a block of land to swap with lands for a portion of the reserve for parking to assure our hall's future. It couldn't happen. Then we got our local member (Cathy Smith) to look at our problem. She could see our problem and agreed we need parking for our hall - fix a past mistake. We have the problem and no solution, but, the reserve was set aside for community!!

2. Recently, dept of lands / Gafoord council rapidly sold a portion of "Crafts Creek reserve" - a crown reserve for public recreation to Supreme Chicken, a company wanting to set up a poultry slaughter facility on a prior processing plant. The land added was along a creek to Mangrove Creek. We believe so the excess ~~sq~~ liquid waste ~~to~~ could be disposed of?!!

3. About 3 years ago a crown road was to be sold to neighbours. It was the only access for fire/pressure vehicles to a large steep part of Popran N.P. which is dense rainforest. We hope it is still on hold till some commonsense is achieved.

4. Some years ago Birnie Road which was our only viable access to the majority of our property also the access to a

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large part of Popran National park was just ~~is~~ sold with no warning to a neighbour. (We were told it was given to them). N.P. still across the park through our place for feral dog control and so on. It made our life a very expensive and terrible 10 years - too long to write here.

5. I purchased a block at Ford's bridge some years ago fronting the Bourke road. The government moved the road above flood level BUT created a crown reserve in front of my block on the space to the new road. I had no access so eventually Crown gave me a licence to drive across the reserve at \$400 per year!! Its over \$450 p annum now. They won't sell me a track across the reserve so I cop the bill forever and the problem was not of my doing!!

6. The Kibble estate - crown reserve was set up to give space for people to enjoy the beautiful water front. Now its being carved up and sold for developers to create multi-story buildings to make money!!

7. There ~~was~~ is an 11 acre piece of crown land (for ~~future~~ FUTURE community use) in Hallards road at Central Mangrove. We hoped one day it would house a cemetery to replace all the ones closed along Mangrove Creek (for environmental reasons) AND a local swimming pool. We need a cemetery

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as we are ~~are~~ an old settlement and have a lot of pioneer links (both ~~to~~ European and Aboriginal) We want to be buried AT HOME and there's no where else.

We need a pool as our population needs to learn to swim and there's not enough space in town and the traffic nowadays is prohibitive

8. The recent permit to give exclusive use to Mangrove Creek reserve - another crown reserve is distressing and a worry.

We believe the Hallards road area is earmarked for sale as "rural home sites". The Mangrove creek ^{sold} ~~is~~ to the equestrian interests?

I can't write more as I'm too tired and upset.

I want to say that we ie Mangrove Mountain and Districts Community Group would be prepared to discuss our experiences further at the meeting on 8/8/16.

So much for crown-land / "for future community needs!"

Yours truly

Margaret Pontifex O.A.M.

P.S. Sorry this is so rushed but, why wasn't there some publicity? This is a matter of every community's FUTURE!!

