

**Submission
No 262**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Northern Beaches Council

Date received: 5 August 2016

5 August 2016

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No.6
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inquiry into Crown Land in NSW

I refer to your recent invitation for submissions regarding the above inquiry.

Northern Beaches Council manages a significant amount of Crown Land within its municipality and has recently participated in the Crown Land Reform Program – Local Land Pilot Project conducted by NSW Department of Industry – Lands (NSW DI – Lands). Therefore, Council fully supports the initiative to transfer Crown Land categorised as “local Crown Land” to local Councils. It should however be noted lands contiguous and indiscernible to National Parks with no other land-use should be, where practicable, incorporated into National Parks.

The transfer of these local Crown Lands will allow Councils to own and manage the land as a local community asset (in accordance with the Local Government Act) where Councils own and maintain significant existing community assets such as community halls, swimming pools, sports facilities, playgrounds, carparks etc.

Where Council is a Reserve Trust Manager for Crown Land of state or regional significance, it is requested that Councils receive all commercial returns from the Crown Lands to fund some of the Council’s costs for maintaining the land and assets. Please note that NSW DI - Lands still holds a number of commercial leases and licences (e.g. telecommunications agreements) directly with the occupiers.

Additionally, Council requests that when the State considers disposal of any Crown Land, local Council’s should have first right of refusal. Such land should be offered at nil acquisition cost for council’s retention as public recreation reserve (or other public purpose). This will ensure the lands are preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Furthermore, lands that are not considered by Council to be advantages for preservation and enhancement may be rejected at Council’s discretion.

Council will be pleased to continue to work closely with NSW DI - Lands to progress these initiatives.

Thank you for allowing us to make a submission on the enquiry. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully.

Ben Taylor
Deputy General Manager
Environment & Infrastructure