

Submission  
No 265

## INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Organisation:** Mangrove Mountain Districts Community Group Inc.

**Date received:** 10 August 2016

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# MANGROVE MOUNTAIN DISTRICTS COMMUNITY GROUP INC.

CALGA, CENTRAL MANGROVE, MANGROVE MOUNTAIN  
KULNURA, MOUNT WHITE, PEATS RIDGE, SOMERSBY

PRESIDENT: D. Willmott

HON. SECRETARY: M Pontifex

The inquiry committee for Crown Lands. 5/8/16.

It was with shock and misgiving that our members noted the enclosed press <sup>(Enclosed)</sup> release (the first anyone had seen)!! The date of the paper was 28/7/16.

Members passed a motion (unapproved) to request me to get their comments to you in writing as a matter of urgency.

1. Not enough information or time to research the matter.
2. Serious misgivings as to the real motives for the inquiry.
3. Concern about the future of Mangrove Mountain Hall. It is on a very small parcel of Torren's title land under community ownership and management. Traditionally Mangrove Mtn Reserve has been the place to park and spread out from the hall action. Of recent times there has been all kinds of problems as the trust didn't want to support the hall. This hall is the centre of the Mountain's universe and our history. We need to have space to park.

We wondered if we could become trustees of M M Reserve (MD of RIS) in the interim till a more secure solution is resolved? It is an oversight that happened generations ago and needs fixing.

Hon Sec. OAM.

**Into the NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into Crown Lands will be held on August 8 in Gosford.**

The meeting will be held at the Central Coast Leagues Club.

Shadow minister for the Central Coast, Mr David Harris, had called on the community to make submissions as part of the current NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Crown Lands in NSW, but the closing date for submissions was July 24.

Mr Harris said organisations that could be affected by the inquiry, and the new Crown Land legislation that is being proposed by the NSW Government, might include preschools, Scout and Guide groups, nursing homes and some community halls," he said.

"This new legislation will affect many community groups across the Central Coast," Mr Harris said.

According to a Gosford Council land register dated September 2014, around 130 locations (plus those on the Woy Woy Peninsula) either have "Crown" as part of their common name or are owned by the Crown.



The Woodport Early Learning Centre is located on land listed as being owned by the Crown

The vast majority of those are currently classified as being for community recreation, open space, environmental or conservation and include several community or neighbourhood centres, but they may have other active uses.

For example, a childcare centre in Green Point is on land owned by the Crown, classified as operational and zoned as R2 Residential.

Mr Harris said the inquiry will be examining the extent of Crown Land and the benefits of active use and management of that land to NSW.

It will be looking into: the adequacy of community input and consultation regarding the commercial use and disposal of

Crown Land; and the most appropriate and effective measures for protecting Crown Land so that it is preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Another area under consideration by the Legislative Council's committee is the extent of Aboriginal Land Claims over Crown Land and opportunities to increase Aboriginal involvement in the management of Crown land.

NSW shadow minister for local government, Mr Peter Primrose, said he recently asked to join the committee and urged interested community groups and individuals to make submissions even if they do not get them in before the deadline.

"It will be up to the committee to decide if they will accept submissions past the deadline but they usually do and they will then give consideration to which submission writers will be asked to give evidence at the public hearing," Mr Primrose said.

The secretariat of the General Purpose Standing Committee Number Six, which is conducting the Crown Lands inquiry, confirmed that those invited to be witnesses at public hearings are usually chosen from groups and individuals

can write to the committee asking for permission to speak.

Mr Primrose said the future and management of Crown Land in NSW was "very complex stuff."

"Most people are not aware of the great range and tenure of Crown Land available," he said.

"Most beaches are Crown Land, for example, and then there are Crown Roads.

"As shadow minister for local government, I am very concerned about what is going to happen to Crown Roads," he said.

Mr Primrose said his concerns were based on the extent of cost shifting that the NSW Government has undertaken in recent years.

Local Government NSW has estimated that the NSW Government is currently shifting \$860 million each year across the state off its books and adding it to the costs of local councils that do not have adequate funding to deal with the additional burden, Mr Primrose said.

Website, Jul 20, 2016  
NSW Parliament Inquiry  
into crown lands  
Media release, Jul 15,

2016  
John Allen, Minister of Local  
Government  
Interview, Jul 21, 2016  
Sam Galbraith, Legislative

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