

## **INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Ms Clara Jones

**Date received:** 17 August 2016

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To The Chairperson  
General purpose standing committee No 6

Regarding the proposal to hand reserves to councils. Please don't do it.

Consider the following: -

- Progress; Is it progress to disenfranchise the most vulnerable and poorest in the community?
- Is it progress to give the few rich and powerful more wealth and power at the expense of the rest and the environment?
- Is it progress to rob our children of the "prime" spots taking away their opportunity to dream, use their imagination and free spirit?
- Is it progress to put money above the happiness and health of the broader community and the environment?

The experience of our community: -

To hear it stated after a meeting "You can't win we have connections in the right places and the money to win in court, in relation to: -

Community owned land held in trust by our local RSL sub-branch. With NO consultation with the community or the sub-branch Council and state member arranged for a tip on our land in the catchments of the central coast water, the bed of a feeder creek and penetrating the underground aquifer!!

When we complained the council took the sub-branch to court, they the sub-branch was found to be NOT GUILTY of wrongdoing and their expenses awarded AGAINST council, however council haven't paid them!!

Council then I believe illegally arranged to have the sub-branch disbanded and the land sold for a fraction of its value to the tip company. The contract was I believe signed before the destruction of the sub-branch. And while a caveat still is in place? WE still can't get an enquiry, Why should We have any confidence that council can be trusted to deal honestly with anything ever again?

People in suits have been observed walking around a crown recreation reserve next to the local hall. The new trust has yet to be appointed. There has been NO communication with the local hall trust next door. The two entities used to compliment each other. Wrong decisions could adversely affect the viability of the hall!

We made a presentation to Council regarding a composite affordable home proposal in order to allow older vulnerable people to remain in the community. Council enthusiastically accepted it in principal. WE were asked to identify parcels of crown/public or bequeathed land possibly suitable for the purpose. We were to get petitions of support [Request of Chris Holstein local and state member at the time] then we were told support was no longer there? I believe the petitions were binned, as we never received formal acknowledgment of their receipt?

*Fortunately I believe copies were kept*

It is my understanding that Reserves have traditionally been set aside for the less affluent

Long paddocks for struggling farmers in drought time. Places where community could work together to establish the facilities needed.

Communities have accepted this as normal. When we were asked to identify places of significance it was never thought the reserves and public spaces were at risk they were already identified.

Was this a government ploy in order to claim our reserves were not valued in order to attempt to sell them?

I believe that public reserves, bequeathed lands etc should be permanently protected from bureaucratic greed and land grabs

With housing affordability restricted [Due in no small degree to the number of "investment" properties owned by the rich, negatively geared and sitting empty.] Homelessness on the increase and backyards shrinking and high-density housing. We need more public space, community gardens, habitat for wildlife and flora. Spaces where an impromptu picnic or cricket game can happen. Children's play areas, spaces where community can meet and greet away from the deafening noise of shopping complexes Should be a right not an optional extra. We need local affordable cemeteries and memorial spaces.

I agree with the sentiment of the meeting on Monday. Local councils do not consider the community, greed appears to be the motivation, and we can't trust them.

Also we should not need to fight for the reserves every few years, it is a disincentive for community to put time and cash into something that a greedy person can take away at the whim of a corrupt politician or bureaucrat

I arrived late because we were given a time of 3.30pm. Was unaware submissions were invited before the original closing date. I belong to the oldest community group in our area So the meeting was not really made available to the interested public.

Hoping you actually support the concept of democracy

Yours sincerely

Clara Jones

\* Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community group