



By email: crownlands.whitepaper@trade.nsw.gov.au

RE: Crown Lands Legislation White Paper

Thank you for considering this submission on the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper.

As the portfolio holder for local government for the Greens NSW I know there is widespread support for the current distinction at a council level of operational land and community land and the need to maintain this distinction.

In particular, communities recognise how valuable the requirement is for all local councils to classify public land as either operational or community land, with this distinction comes the essential protection for community land that:

- a. Prohibit the sale of community land;
- b. Require widespread community consultation on plans of management for all community land; and
- c. Require a public hearing by the council before community land can be classified as operational land.

I also note that there is a need for a clear public register of Crown Lands which should be freely available to all members of the public. The lack of such a register can only increase uncertainty about rights and obligations relating to Crown Lands, and alienate the community from an important part of the public estate.

Considerations relating to public lands should be guided by the principles of the public good, and prioritise the public ownership and continued retention of all Crown Lands.

We strongly disagree with moving to a system where there is a need to prove the “value” of retaining any parcel of Crown Land, and believe the default position should be retaining Crown Land, with a high bar to be met before any public land is lost. Any change in this onus is a substantial attack on the public estate and must be strongly resisted.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at david.shoebridge@parliament.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9230 3030 if you have any questions regarding this submission or require further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shoebridge', written in a cursive style.

David Shoebridge
Greens NSW MP