

Submission

No 081

CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS

Name: Emmaville Common

Date received: 21/02/2017

Emmaville Common

Date: Tue, Feb 21, 2017 at 8:26 AM

Subject: Submission - Commons

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the submissions from the Emmaville Commons Trust.

Yours Sincerely

Kirsten Schaefer

Secretary

Emmaville Commons Trust

EMMAVILLE COMMONS TRUST

EMMAVILLE COMMONS TRUST SUBMISSIONS REGARDING UPDATED COMMONS PROPOSAL

The Emmaville Commons Trust is pleased to provide the following submissions as per the written request of Mr. David Clarke, Group Director, Governance and Strategy dated 24/01/2017. To provide clarity and structure to our submissions, we adopt the numbered items from Mr. David Clarke's correspondence.

1. DOES THE PROPOSAL SUFFICIENTLY RECOGNISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMONS?

The factsheet "Continuing community involvement in Crown reserves and management" (October 2016) produced by the Department of Industry as part of the Comprehensive Review of NSW Crown Land Management states: "The concept of commons could be considered outdated because the traditional rationale for commons no longer exists. However, the Government recognises that certain commons are actively used and there is merit in this use continuing." This statement is of concern to the Emmaville Commons Trust as it displays a city-centric attitude to Commons use, essentially dismissing the fact that the large tracts of Common land located in rural areas are still used in the traditional manner for small scale grazing, stock movement, watering of livestock and firewood collection. Rural Australia has suffered under the privatization and centralization of Government institutions such as power, telecommunications and postal services which has been driven by a desire for liquidation of assets and city-centric attitudes. Maintaining the right of the local community to utilize the Commons for traditional purposes, is a key concern for the Emmaville Commons Trust.

2. DOES THE PROPOSAL SUFFICIENTLY RETAIN AN ONGOING ROLE FOR COMMONS TRUSTS?

So far, the Comprehensive Review of NSW Crown Land Management has generated 2 review reports, 2 white papers, a lengthy piece of legislation and at least 14 factsheets or similar publications. All these documents are text heavy, use a great deal of technical language and are big on rhetoric but small on how the proposal will be executed (see for example the statement reproduced below). "The proposed legislation will also take a risk-based approach to the level of Ministerial oversight, providing incentives for managers of Crown reserves to develop enhanced capacity and governance abilities."

The Emmaville Commons Trust has concluded there is not enough clarity in relation to how the changes will affect the community at the local level. The inclusion of diagrams such as flow charts would perhaps be of great assistance in illustrating where the Commons Trust will sit within the proposed hierarchy and what the business of running a Commons Trust will look like on a day to day basis.

3. DOES THE PROPOSAL SUFFICIENTLY PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF THE COMMONS?

As outlined at number 1 and 2 above, at face value the proposal has a city-centric focus and there is a lack of clarity and simplicity in the proposal which makes it difficult for the average person to assess how the proposed changes will affect them and what the management of a Commons Trust will look like moving forward.

4. DOES THE PROPOSAL BENEFIT THE ABILITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF NSW TO EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF COMMONS?

As above.