

Submission

No 116

CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS

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Subject: Commons Submission

My name is Veerle Norbury and I reside at [deleted]

I am not a Commoner of the St Albans Common but I unreservedly support its continued existence (and others) under the Commons Management Act as detailed in the Submission of the Trustees to the Department of Industry – Lands in relation to the NSW Government’s updated proposal for Commons.

The importance of Commons such as the St Albans Common and its management by the Commoners is invaluable to the community and for the protection of the cultural, heritage, social and environmental values for this and future generations. It is the Commoners who have the connection to the Common and who will best manage the Common in the interests of the community.

As a Non-Commoner I appreciate the benefit from the community, cultural, heritage, social and environmental values embodied in the continued existence of the St Albans Common Trust with a Roll of Commoners and an elected Board of Trustees.

I strongly object to any proposal that would result in the repeal of the Commons Management Act and the designation of the St Albans Common (and others) as Crown Land under the Crown Land Management Act. To do so would eradicate the Common Roll and the function of the Commoner and, over time, the right to elect those Trustees who manage the St Albans Common Trust. I understand that this function will be transferred to Land Managers under Ministerial appointment which is unacceptable when such Commons were specifically granted to communities. The legislative proposals are in direct conflict with the excision of Commons from the Crown Lands Management Act, which only occurred in November 2016 to much acclaim from all parliamentary parties.

I emphasise my support for the suggestion of the Trustees of the St Albans Common Trust that the Commons Management Act be retained, with a limited application to “eligible” Commons as listed in a new Schedule. An “eligible Common” would be a functioning Common in good standing under the Commons Management Act whose management and operations are carried on in a manner consistent with purposes as specified. Relevant purposes would embrace those suggested by the Department of Industry- Lands i.e. a common, community use and protection of cultural, heritage and environmental values.