

Submission

No 030

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Jane Gregory

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Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 12:04 PM
Subject: Submission - Commons

Dear Mr Clarke,

RE: Current proposal for Commons

I am writing to you in response to the Department of Industry- Lands fact sheet, titled- COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF NSW CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT - Recognising and protecting the values of commons.

I submit the following to you as I do not agree that the current proposal is the right approach.

It is not appropriate to have the St Albans Common brought under the umbrella of the Crown Lands Management Act.

The proposed legislative framework effectively abolishes the concept of a Common and with it 200 years of NSW history. To abolish the functions of the Common Roll, the Commoner, and their right to elect the Trustees who manage the Common and substitute Land Managers appointed by the Minister does not recognise the well managed Commons of NSW. This Common and others which have operated effectively should not be treated the same as those that have not. To demolish all Commons as a way of regulating the bad ones is the wrong approach.

It is not appropriate to vest sole authority in the Minister to appoint persons to manage the St Albans Common Trust. The potential for the control of the management of the St Albans Common to be wrested from the community and placed in the hands of those whose interests may not be aligned with the community is very real and should not be underestimated or treated lightly.

The future management of the St Albans Common, consistent with the overall objectives of the above document, is best achieved by keeping the overarching legislative framework provided by the Commons Management Act 1989. The St Albans Common is a well-run Common of significant historical, social, environmental, cultural and heritage significance. It is unique in its continuous operation and independent funding by the Commoners since 1824 and so to adopt a "one size fits all" approach is not relevant.

Selective amendments to the Commons Management Act will ensure best practice administration of Commons such as the St Albans Common without abandoning nearly 200 years of historical, social, environmental, heritage and cultural significance.

Yours Sincerely,
Jane Gregory
St Albans Commoner