

Submission

No 109

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Alison Punton

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Subject: St Albans Common

I request that the government abandon the repeal of the commons management act of 1989, and that the Trustees remain elected by the commoners.

Having Trustees elected by the commoners means that the common land will be looked after properly. The trustees as it stands all have a personal united interest to look after the land for now and for the future generations. The Trustees are people who have a directed and consistent connection to the land so they know the things that need doing to maintain looking after the land properly. The commoners pay fees so this work can be done.

If The Department of Industry-Lands were to elect the Trustees of these commons I do not think that the common lands will be looked after properly or at all for now or for the future generations. The trustee elected would most likely not have the same personal interest or connection to the common land as the Trustees do have now. The person would most likely be detached on every level.

The Department of Industry and Lands do not have a good track record of looking after the Crown land that they already have to manage. Many areas of the crown lands are covered in weeds and feral animals that smother and kill the native fauna and flora so how can they be justified in taking control of lands that are being looked after and well managed.

So what will The Department of Industry-Lands leave the future generations if the management does not improve? It will be a land covered in weeds and feral animals with no native fauna and flora to be found. Where will the funding come from to improve this situation?

As for St Albans common under the management and system that is there today the land will be looked after and will have the funds to look after it for now and for the future generations.

The common land is mostly used by local small lot owners to help them grow food for people that mostly live in cities. As much as it seems that the use of commons are for just a few people the purpose of what that land is being used for is far greater and broader and is for all people.

By leaving the Commons as they are, particularly St Albans Common, we are leaving a culture for the future generations to be proud of. It will be a common place to grow food to feed everyone and the environment will be managed, funded and looked after into the future as it is today.

Yours Sincerely,
Alison Punton.