

**Submission**

**No 094**

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN  
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

**Name:** Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange

**Date received:** 21/02/2017

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## **Ecco (Environmentally Concerned citizens of Orange)**

Date: 21 February 2017 at 14:22

Subject: Submission re: commons

Attached is our ECCO submission concerning the repeal of the Commons Management Act (1989).

Regards

Nick King

President

ECCO

To whom it may concern

I am writing on behalf of the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange to express our concern and opposition to the proposal that the Commons Management Act of 1989 be repealed, the result of which, if successful, will allow for State Government management, and ultimately control of commons.

ECCO is a not for profit community environmental group which has been concerned with the management of Crown land and other forms of public land since our inception ten years ago. Our organisation has lodged submissions on the issue of Crown land, and we remain concerned about the state's continued efforts to enact changes, the potential of which is the removal of public land from public ownership and control.

ECCO has fought for and continues to support the environmental values of public land which are embodied in the Commons, which currently operate under trusteeship in New South Wales. We doubt these values will be retained under State government management. The existing track record of our current State government when it comes to selling off public assets makes us very uneasy when it is suggested that the State take over the management of any locally administered public entity. A change to the Act as has been suggested would have the effect of wresting control from local management to State appointed land managers, which is in direct conflict with the excision of Commons from the Crown Land management Act, which only occurred in November 2016, and was supported by all parliamentary parties.

ECCO strongly supports the suggestion that the Commons Management Act be retained, to ensure continued ownership and administration by local people who have connection and ownership to the land in question. There may be changes made in the future concerning the use of such land, but it is essential that they be made at the local level by people who understand the unique local social, environmental and heritage values of the commons.

Yours sincerely

Nick King

President

Environmentally Concerned citizens of Orange.