

Submission

No 119

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Local Government New South Wales

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Local Government NSW (Submitted 2 days after deadline)

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23 February 2017

Mr David Clarke
Group Director, Governance and Strategy
NSW Department of Industry – Lands
PO Box 2185
DANGAR NSW 2309

Dear Mr Clarke

David

Crown Lands - Commons

Thank you for inviting LGNSW to comment on the updated proposal for commons.

LGNSW is aware that the new proposal is required because the State Government's original proposal to repeal the *Commons Management Act (1989)* did not get carried forward with the new *Crown Land Management Act (2016)*. LGNSW understands that the primary reason it did not proceed was opposition from a number of commons trusts.

LGNSW supported the State Government's proposal to repeal the *Commons Management Act (1989)*. The LGNSW submissions on the Crown Lands Legislation – White Paper and the Crown Lands Management Review in 2014 both indicated local government support. The concept of commons is antiquated and does not align with the contemporary use or management of most commons. In many cases, it would be more appropriate that commons were reclassified as community land under council ownership.

However, given the relatively small number of commons and the land area occupied by commons, the management of commons was not identified as a significant issue by local government during the review process.

The State Government's revised proposal for commons appears to strike a reasonable balance between the historical legacy and importance of commons and the need to open commons to the broader community and improve management practices. LGNSW particularly welcomes the provisions to ensure improved protection for cultural and environmental values.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Rygate', written over a horizontal line.

Donna Rygate
Chief Executive