

Submission

No 047

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Keith Ker

Date received: 19/02/2017

Date: Sun, Feb 19, 2017 at 5:09 PM
Subject: St Albans Common submission

My name is Keith Ker.

I own rural property at [deleted] which is situated on the northern end of St. Albans Common.

I am not a Commoner of the St Albans Common but I unreservedly support its continued existence 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. I am aware that I will be identified in the summary of submissions list.

As a local landholder, I appreciate and benefit to the community, cultural, heritage 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.

Specifically, I reiterate my opposition to any proposal that would result in the repeal of the Commons Management Act and the designation of the St Albans Common 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 would be transferred to Land Managers under Ministerial appointment which is unacceptable to me. 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.

St Albans Common only possesses the values described above because it has been actively tended and protected by local people. This task has been handed down through generations of locals who have committed their time, personal funds, labour and expertise.

Without the existing local system of management, the Trustees, the commoners and their supporters, the values of St .Albans common would probably already have been lost.

We will fight to the end to save St. Albans common from all threats. Fires, floods, draughts.....
and governments.

Keith Ker,
[address deleted]
Feb. 19th 2017.