

Submission

No 072

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Alice Nagy

Date received: 20/02/2017

Date: Mon, Feb 20, 2017 at 5:38 PM
Subject: St Albans Common

Please find attached my submission in relation to proposal for including St Albans common in the Crown Lands Management Act. I have concerns about the proposal and strongly urge the NSW government to ensure the St Albans common remains under the Commons Management Act.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alice Nagy and I own property at [deleted], which shares a boundary with St Albans Common. I am not a Commoner of the St Albans Common but intend to enrol soon. As an interested party and soon to be commoner 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 Non-Commoner I appreciate and benefit from 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 will 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.

I’d also like to add that I have grown up in St Albans and seen my parents – both of whom have been commoners for decades – diligently attend common meetings over the years. I have grown up seeing the common managed fairly and efficiently by locals in keeping with its nearly 200 year tradition. The St Albans common meetings were my first exposure to democratic governance, which I believe on this small scale adheres to democratic principles better than many government institutions I have since witnessed.

The beauty of the St Albans common is that people are given the power to make decisions about issues that immediately affect them rather than having outsider bureaucrats making decisions that impact on us; decisions that they themselves won’t have to live with. I strongly support my community and locally run institutions and governance. Please don’t meddle in something that isn’t broken. We don’t want to be lumped in with the crown lands act so please leave St Albans Common as it is.

Regards,

Alice Nagy.