

Submission

No 002

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

Name: Hill End and Tambaroora Common

Date received: 03/02/2017

Hill End and Tambaroora Common

I am writing this submission on behalf of the Hill End and Tambaroora Common.

Brief History: The Tambaroora Common was established in 1867. In 1901 it was renamed the Hill End and Tambaroora Common. The Common has been in effect for 150 years continuously and has been managed by an elected Trust for this entire time. Initially the Common was formed to enable gold miners, store keepers and local residents to keep livestock without having to own large tracts of land. This was the role of the Common until late last century. The Common has historical significance in that there are many relics of the gold rush era including building foundations, mining artifacts, mine shafts. Subject: submission re Crown Lands Management Act

Current role: At the present time, the Common is open to the general public. Activities that are undertaken include gold fossicking, horseback trail riding, orienteering and general bushwalking. Commoners are also entitled to collect firewood for their own use.

Common Trust: The Hill End and Tambaroora Common is managed by seven elected Trustees. We are all local residents and have the belief that the heritage of this historic area is preserved at all cost. We regularly undertake weed spraying, wild dog baiting and feral pig trapping in an effort to keep the Common usable for all. These activities also benefit adjoining local land owners who do have stock. As we are all locals, we are constantly monitoring the Common to make sure that these activities are done as needed. These activities are solely funded by the Trust from income derived from membership fees and a small number of leases.

Recent and proposed usage of the Common: Last year, the Dubbo Prospecting Club held a weekend training/prospecting camp at which some 100 members attended. Next October, the Australasian Orienteering Association is holding an international event at which some 1500 competitors from Australia and overseas are expected to attend. The Common Trust has been working with these organisations to help facilitate these events and to help make them a success. As this area is of great historical significance, school holidays, public holidays and weekends see an influx of tourists to the area. Many of these visitors use the Common for fossicking and bushwalking.

The Hill End and Tambaroora Common Trust believe that it is imperative that the control of commons, especially in remote areas like ours, be held by local people elected by commoners. This is because we have constant insight into the use, and problems associated with the common. We are constantly aware of the need for the common to be accesable to all people and take action to ensure that this is possible.

The key points of the Departments proposal seem to recognise the role of commons. Our concern is that if the control of commons should be removed from local trustees, the efficiency of the protection of the social, historical and cultural values will be diminished. As you can see from the previously listed activities, this common is self sufficient, viable and successful in fulfilling the role of commons in today's society.

(A follow up telephone call confirmed Keith Roser was in favour of the proposal and that they were happy with the proposal. He agreed the proposal did recognise the significance of the commons, that it did retain an ongoing role for common trusts, that it sufficiently protected the values and that it benefited the people of NSW).

Keith Roser
Secretary
Hill End and Tambaroora Common