

**Submission**

**No 068**

**CONSULTATION ON THE MODERN  
MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS**

**Name:** Ferry Artists Inc. (Organisation)

**Date received:** 20/02/2017

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Date: Mon, Feb 20, 2017 at 4:10 PM  
Subject: St Albans Common submission

Please find attached the St Albans Common submission from the Ferry Artists Gallery in Wisemans Ferry.  
Regards,  
Carol Gill  
Ferry Artists Committee member.

The Ferry Artist s Inc. (FA) is a community Art Gallery based in the Wisemans Ferry - St Albans and Macdonald Valley area  
As a separate local Community organization we 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.

We unreservedly support the St Albans Commons 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. We are aware that we will be identified in the summary of submissions list.

We are particularly disappointed that the Fact Sheet fails to clearly disclose that it is the intention to abolish the role of Commoners along with the election of Trustees. This aspect of proposal is fundamental to the Governments package and its absence in the key consultation document significantly diminishes the credibility of the Government’s process and more broadly its proposals

Specifically, The Ferry Artists reiterate our 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.

We 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

The Ferry Artists emphasise our 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.

Carol Gill  
Ferry Artists Gallery