

Network Message

NSWALC response to the Crown Lands Management Review and White Paper

Friday, May 16th, 2014

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council is urging the NSW Government to genuinely recognise and incorporate the interests of the Aboriginal Land Council network in Crown land into any new proposals to the way Crown land is owned and managed in NSW.

The NSW Government recently released the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper that makes a series of proposals regarding changes to the management of Crown land and the consolidation of legislation including the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *Continued Tenures Act* and the *Western Lands Act*.

The proposals include new objects to Crown land legislation that include:

- to provide that the disposal of Crown land be for the benefit of the people of NSW,
- to encourage public use, enjoyment and where appropriate, multiple uses of Crown land,
- to provide for the management of Crown land by local government, other entities and the community as well as by the NSW Government,
- to preserve cultural heritage (Aboriginal and non Aboriginal) on Crown land as well as to encourage Aboriginal use, and where appropriate co-management, of Crown land.

NSWALC Deputy Chairman Roy Ah See said “As the original owners of all Crown land – and as claimants of Crown land that is unused and not needed - Aboriginal Land Councils are more than merely stakeholders in the management of Crown land.”

“Any changes to the way Crown land is owned and managed must support the objects and purpose of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, and the use and management of Crown land for culture and heritage purposes as well as providing economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people.”



New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

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“NSWALC seeks an opportunity for greater involvement in the review process. We also encourage all LALCs and members of the Aboriginal community to make a submission to the White Paper to ensure their voice is heard about the future management of Crown Land.”

Submissions to the White Paper are due by 5pm on **20 June 2014** and can be sent to:

crownlands.whitepaper@trade.nsw.gov.au

Crown Lands Management Review
NSW Trade and Investment
PO Box 2185, Dangar, NSW, 2309

A factsheet further outlining the White Paper and the NSWALC's position is attached.



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