

19 August 2020

Attention: SSP Crown Land
PO Box 2155
DANGAR NSW 2309



By Email: cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Draft State Strategic Plan for Crown Land

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW is the leading industry body representing the interests of the urban development sector. UDIA NSW advocates for better planning, timely and affordable housing, and the building of vibrant communities to increase local job opportunities.

Green Space

The Draft State Strategic Plan for Crown Land (the Plan) aims to increase public green space by 10 per cent by 2023. The Plan is not specific on actions but notes that working with and better resourcing local councils will be part of the strategy, since local councils are often Crown land managers.

UDIA believes there is an opportunity for Crown Lands to realise this aim through the strategic management of riparian corridors in growth areas. Currently, due to the *Water Management Act 2000* and resourcing constraints, local councils are often unwilling to accept dedication of riparian corridors or otherwise constrained green space (such as transmission line easements) as public land.

If these green spaces remain in fragmented private ownership, they cannot be managed strategically as assets for the NSW community. UDIA recommends that Crown Lands investigate a potential role in managing riparian corridors and constrained lands in growth areas as a way of increasing public green space.

Aboriginal Land Claims

The draft Plan acknowledges the backlog of undetermined Aboriginal land claims and Native Title claims on Crown Land. This backlog prevents divestment and use of this land for certain purposes. UDIA understands approximately 40 per cent of land in NSW is currently subject to a native title claim.

UDIA member Local Aboriginal Land Councils have significant claims awaiting determination. These lands have the potential to contribute to housing and employment land supply, as well as supporting Aboriginal communities across NSW. UDIA recommends that the Plan include actions to better resource the determination of Aboriginal land claims in a timely manner.

We would be pleased to discuss these recommendations with you in further detail. Please contact Toby Adams, General Manager Policy, Research and Corporate Affairs on (02) 9262 1214 or at tadams@udiansw.com.au to arrange.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Mann'.

Steve Mann
Chief Executive

Urban Development
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