



Kate Washington MP

Member for Port Stephens



BD 017 2324 - 20055

Mr Neil & Mrs Margarete Ritchie
16 Brandy Hill Dr
BRANDY HILL NSW 2324

Dear Neil & Margarete,

Under the Liberals, the whole of NSW is up for sale

In recent weeks, the NSW Liberal Government – led by Premier Gladys Berejiklian – has shockingly announced a privatisation plan which could see New South Wales sell off thousands upon thousands of hectares of public land to property developers.

Prior to the 2019 State Election, the NSW Liberal Premier made a solemn promise to the people of New South Wales to end the privatisation agenda of her predecessors.

On national television, when asked if she would sell off more publicly-owned assets, the Premier said: **"No, no, no, and if we were we would have told you."**

The Premier of New South Wales has broken that promise.

Recently, the Liberal Government sold Scone TAFE. Now they have published a website listing every Government-owned property across the state. The Government has publicly invited the private sector to use this database to make bids and put forward privatisation proposals.

The Government has put up a 'For Sale' sign on the entire state of New South Wales, including 615 parcels of publicly-owned land in Port Stephens.

The Berejiklian Government's website includes local school grounds, public parks, community centres, cemeteries, foreshore reserves and **even parts of our local national parks.**

You can view the database via: www.NSWforSale.com.au

I am completely opposed to the Liberals' policy of letting property developers buy public assets, squeezing out ordinary citizens from public land, and reaping huge profits from privatisation.

Enclosed with this letter is a petition opposing the Government's plan, and a return envelope. With 10,000 signatures, we can force a debate in Parliament.

If you need more copies of the petition, please contact my office. We need as many people as possible standing against the privatisation agenda of the Berejiklian Government.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Washington MP
Member for Port Stephens

Turn over for my
speech to Parliament

**PARLIAMENT OF NSW
HANSARD - THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021**

PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE PUBLIC LAND

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens): I take this opportunity to inform my community and members of this House about the shocking impact of the Coalition Government's latest privatisation plan. Under this Government, Port Stephens is for sale. The entire State is for sale. If you have enough money, and if you have the right connections, the Government wants to hear from you. Of course, in Port Stephens we are well aware of this Government's terrible track record and its ongoing obsession with selling public land. In 2016 the Government flogged off a six-hectare parcel of land known as the Mambo Wetlands. There was no warning whatsoever. The Government just whacked up a great big "For sale" sign and then sold it in an online auction for \$250,000. To put that into perspective, small house blocks next door to that area sell for in excess of \$1 million—currently they are probably worth about \$2 million. But this invaluable six-hectare parcel of land, an important koala breeding area, was sold off by the Government to a property developer for just \$250,000 in an online auction.

The community was sickened. Mambo Wetlands is home to not only the local koala population but also a number of other endangered species, including powerful owls, squirrel gliders and migratory birds. The community and I spent three years campaigning to force the Government to buy back Mambo Wetlands. When the Government finally accepted that it had made a terrible mistake, it bought the land back for nearly twice the original sale price. It was a disgraceful waste of the community's time and of taxpayer money. Fast forward a little, and over the past year or two the Liberal-Nationals Government has compiled a database of all public land in the State. That in and of itself is perfectly reasonable. But what happened next is shocking and will permanently change our communities for the worse. The Government is using the database to flog off public land and it is not even trying to hide it. In a press release announcing the website launch, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing said:

The Government Property Index provides a free one-stop shop for information on NSW government-owned property and will allow industry to put forward innovative proposals for that land ...

We don't even have to take the Minister's word for it. It is stated on the website that the database will:

Allow proposals on how government-owned land might be used to deliver an economic stimulus.

The website also includes links to the Government's unsolicited proposals process, where private companies try to obtain public land for development. It is very clear what the purpose of the database is: The Government wants to flog off public land so that developers can make truckloads of money. Of course, the Treasurer will get a slice to pay for all his Sydney projects which are billions of dollars over budget because of the Government's incompetence. Meanwhile, the people of New South Wales will lose their precious public land.

There are 615 parcels of public land in Port Stephens that have been put on this register. There are school grounds on the register. Why would the Government place school grounds on a register seeking privatisation proposals? Why not make it clear that these areas are off limits? There are parts of local cemeteries on the register. Why would the Government place cemeteries on a register seeking privatisation proposals? There is precious foreshore land and environmentally sensitive land all across Port Stephens on the register. You can bet your bottom dollar that developers are trawling through the list right now and their eyes are turning green.

When the Government launched the website, the Labor Opposition was appalled. The Minister's press release begged for privatisation proposals and so does the website itself. I am furious that the 615 pieces of land in Port Stephens listed on the Government Property Index have been included in the Government's quest for privatisation proposals. Over the past few days the Government has desperately tried to muddy the waters and it now claims that only some pieces of land might be sold off. Why not make it clear which pieces of land are for sale and which are not? They are all on the website and, according to the Government, everything is for sale—as long as the price is right. The Government should dump this disgraceful plan. It should update the website to make it clear which parcels of land it wants to flog off, if it actually does not want to flog all of them off. The people of the Port Stephens electorate have been there before and do not want to be there again. They do not trust the Government. On their behalf, I say to the Government that New South Wales is not for sale.

UNDER THE LIBERALS EVERYTHING IS FOR SALE

The NSW Liberal Government has built an online portal for property developers to pick and choose from public assets.



The Sydney Morning Herald May 5, 2021
Government wants housing plan to include private investment on public land



Melinda Pavey
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

MEDIA RELEASE

"The Government Property Index provides a free **one-stop shop** for information on NSW government-owned property and will **allow industry to put forward innovative proposals for that land...**"

The Sydney Morning Herald April 30, 2021
NSW signals renewed focus on privatisation

www.NSWforSale.com.au

Government Property Index x +

www.NSWforSale.com.au

A NSW Government website

My Account

NSW GOVERNMENT Planning Portal

BASIX Certificate Short Term Rental Accommodation Development Assessment Post-Consent Certificates APIs & Reporting Planning Panels Exhibitions & Publications

Simple search

Address

Lot/Section/DP

Lot/Section/DP

Government Property Index

Please use the search facility on the left to find NSW Government properties matching your search criteria

Address	LGA	Area (m2)	Lot/Plan	Zone	Show Map
2A SHOAL BAY ROAD SHOAL BAY 2315	PORT STEPHENS	49,018	432/-/DP41582	RE1: PUBLIC RECREATION	
BARCLAY STREET KARUAH 2324	PORT STEPHENS	18,386	7309/-/DP1156839	RE1: PUBLIC RECREATION	
64 FERODALE ROAD MEDOWIE 2318	PORT STEPHENS	95,817	2/-/DP595932	SP2: INFRASTRUCTURE	
1A PEACE PARADE TANILBA BAY 2319	PORT STEPHENS	484,660	289/-/DP41306	E2: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION	
HUNTER STREET RAYMOND TERRACE 2324	PORT STEPHENS	9,508	7005/-/DP94774	RE1: PUBLIC RECREATION	



Shoal Bay ANZAC Park



Karuah Memorial Park



Raymond Terrace Riverside Park



Tilligerry Habitat



Medowie Public High School

THE NSW LIBERALS' PUBLIC ASSET FIRE-SALE MUST BE STOPPED

PUBLIC ASSETS BELONG IN PUBLIC HANDS

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, this petition of citizens of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House the strong community opposition to the fire-sale of public assets by the State Government through the 'Government Property Index' and the stated aim by Minister for Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey MP, to use the Government Property Portal as a fast-track for private development of public land.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to put a stop to the privatisation smorgasbord policy of the Berejiklian Government and retain public ownership of public assets, protecting them for future generations.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____
optional optional

No stamp required
if posted in Australia

Delivery Address:

PO Box 82
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324



Kate Washington MP
MP for Port Stephens
Reply Paid 88420
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324