

The Director General's Foreword

The Department of Lands has seen a year of significant change, growth and development. During the reporting year, Lands consolidated the integration of its constituent agencies and improved its quality and service delivery coverage.

We set new policy and operational directions, established new structures and provided the resources to meet our internal and customer needs. We established core values, and continued respect for the individual cultures that brought the organisation together whilst focusing on inclusiveness within the new agency.

The Department of Lands is a steward for land and property information, spatial information and the Crown lands of New South Wales (NSW). In being accountable for the policy and strategic development of these areas, we hold in trust for the current and future generations the management and care of the Crown Land estate, and the information relating to the titling, valuation, surveying and mapping of land and property and the cadastral and spatial data infrastructure for NSW.

Importantly, we also continued the consolidation of the valuable historical contribution made by the Soil Conservation Service earthmoving teams and consultancy staff to the protection and management of the states natural resources. This activity continues to meet the diverse needs of rural and urban environments for advice, assistance and specialist services whilst working within a commercial environment.

Through the Office of Rural Affairs there is a focus on the social, economic and environmental well being and prosperity of the rural areas of NSW, its people, communities and future. The focused staff of this area continued their tireless efforts to provide direction and coordination to key projects and initiatives.

The principle of stewardship is a driving imperative underpinning all our activities. Translated to our organisational context, stewardship is the willingness to be accountable for the well-being of the larger organisation by operating in the service, rather than in control, of those around us – it is the ability to empower, trust and partner.

We are building a clear and concrete connection between the concept of stewardship and achieving targeted and measurable outcomes for the organisation (value for money). The new Department of Lands will be an organisation which we structure, mould and nurture, and an organisation that reflects government and client needs. It will be one organisation with many services.

We will be focused on people, programs and performance. We will underpin our activities with clear strategic directions of customer service, value for money, inclusiveness (from the social, economic and political perspective), transparency and innovation.

We will not only strive for the triple bottom line outcomes – economic, environmental and social – but will seek to achieve a quadruple bottom line where capacity building and organisational knowledge, staff health and development are equally valued. We will seek to identify, value and demonstrate the Knowledge Capital within the department.

The year has been one of consolidation and significant achievement for Lands and we will continue to respond to the challenges of the future with innovation, share our knowledge and lead by example to build sustainable outcomes for the people of NSW.

Finally, I would like to thank the management and staff for their continued commitment and contribution to Lands during the past year and for their willingness to embrace change and development within an ever changing and challenging financial and broader operating environment.



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