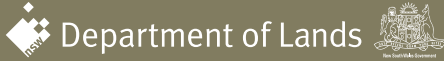


The future of travelling stock reserves



The Department of Lands (Lands) is responsible for the management and allocation of Crown land across NSW. The NSW State Government and Lands ensure there is land available for the social, economic and environmental benefit of the people of NSW.

Currently, Lands manages more than 30,000 Crown reserves or about 2.5 million hectares. These reserves are a part of the extensive Crown land estate that make up almost half of the state.

Travelling stock reserves (TSRs) have always been Crown reserves and will continue to be appropriately protected under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

A recent review into the management of TSRs has resulted in some important changes which are outlined in the information below.

For further information about the future of TSRs, visit Lands website at www.lands.nsw.gov.au or contact your local Crown Lands office.

Essentially:

- TSRs have always been Crown reserves
- there are no plans to sell TSRs that contribute to environmental values as well as social, cultural and economic needs of the community
- TSRs will be managed as part of the network of Crown reserves across the state – not in isolation
- TSRs will be managed for a multiple range of purposes including conservation, agricultural, recreational, cultural or a combination of these
- TSRs will continue to be Crown reserves appropriately protected and available for public use and enjoyment.

What are TSRs?

- Travelling stock reserves are Crown reserves historically formed to provide for the movement of stock across the landscape. TSRs are valued as corridors containing native vegetation, ecosystems, providing a habitat for flora and fauna as well as enhancing the scenic value of the landscape.
- TSRs are also used for emergency refuge during floods and drought, as well as some local agistment. For local towns, TSRs often provide opportunities for recreation, particularly where these reserves include watercourses.

- There are over 6,300 TSRs throughout NSW, comprising an area of approximately two million hectares.

2007 review

- TSRs have always been Crown reserves and are mostly administered by Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs).
- The *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* provides for the establishment of Rural Lands Protection Boards and for management and regulation of use of travelling stock reserves. The administration of this Act currently rests with the Minister for Primary Industries.
- In late 2007, the State Council of Rural Lands Protection Boards recognised the need for their organisation to undergo an external review to set their future direction and enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and relevance across the state. As such, an independent review was conducted by Integrated Marketing Communications Pty Ltd. The outcomes of this review recommended several changes to the current management structure including the return of TSRs to Lands. For further information about this review and details of the recommendations go to the Rural Lands Protection Boards website at www.rlpb.org.au.

What is changing?

As a result of the State Council's independent review, several changes will be implemented including:

- the reduction of the number of RLPBs from 47 to 14
- TSRs and their ongoing management will be ceded back to Lands except where the restructured RLPBs establish a clear business case for their retention
- RLPBs may relinquish control of their TSRs, providing the Minister for Primary Industries approves this. In these situations, the land in question reverts to the control of Lands for reallocation in keeping with the principles of Crown land management.

How will these changes be implemented?

- Lands is about to conduct a major study into TSRs in the Hunter region, with \$260,000 in state funding provided to undertake the project.

- The study will examine the future needs and uses of these Crown reserves and provide the basis of a model that can be applied across the state to better manage TSRs taking into account the current and future needs of the community.
- Lands will be working in partnership with the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, who will also be contributing funding to the project, and a stakeholder reference group, with technical and social expertise, that is currently being formed.

When will these changes be implemented?

It is expected that all TSRs (except those for which the restructured RLPBs can justify keeping on a business case basis) will be transferred over the next 6-12 months.

Will Lands sell TSRs?

- There are no plans to sell TSRs that contribute to environmental values or social, cultural and economic needs of the community.
- TSRs are Crown land, reserved for the purpose of travelling stock.
- Current reservation will not be revoked i.e. TSRs will remain Crown reserves.

- In the future, the reserves may be additionally reserved to reflect a wider scope of uses for the public i.e. public recreation, environmental protection, recreation facility, access to tourist facilities and services.

Further information

For further information about the future of TSRs, visit Lands website at www.lands.nsw.gov.au or contact your local Crown Lands office.

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