

# Joining a Crown land reserve trust board

July 2015

New South Wales has more than 34,000 Crown reserves mostly managed by Crown land reserve trusts. Around 700 of these reserves are managed by community volunteers through Crown land reserve trust boards.

Crown reserves have existed since colonial times to safeguard important community resources for recreation and sport, environmental protection, heritage, community halls, cemeteries, showgrounds and racecourses. The Crown Reserve System is the oldest and most diverse land management system in New South Wales. Many culturally, environmentally or socially significant sites are Crown reserves.

The Crown land reserve trust system enables the NSW Government, local councils and members of the community to work together to provide the best care, control and management over significant parts of our state.

## What are Crown land reserve trusts?

Crown land reserve trusts care for important land and public assets on behalf of, and with the involvement of, the New South Wales community, government and local councils.

Crown land reserve trusts are given corporate names and are legal entities, just like businesses. They have someone who manages their affairs, such as a board, the Minister administering the *Crown Lands Act 1989* (generally delegated to departmental staff), an incorporated body such as a council, or an administrator.

If a board is appointed, a chairperson, secretary and treasurer of the board are elected. The board can then appoint a management committee, volunteers or employ others to assist it in managing its reserve if funds are available.

## What do Crown land reserve trust boards do?

A Crown land reserve trust board acts like a company board of directors. It can be made up of community volunteers, local government councillors or other people appointed by the Minister. Board members are empowered to make decisions regarding the use and management of the reserve land and are responsible for the implementation of those decisions. Most tasks boards carry out can be completed in a few hours a week.

Crown land reserve trust boards make decisions about things like:

- how a reserve is used
- hours of entry
- driving and parking or mooring of vessels on the reserve
- fees charged for entry
- permitted or prohibited activities within the reserve
- how reserve trust funds are spent
- Environmental management within the reserve.
- Crown land reserve trust boards also produce and
- review the following:
- a Code of Conduct



- an annual financial statement
- a risk management checklist
- an annual report.

## It only takes a small effort to build a community

Crown land reserve trust boards allow you to get involved with your community and take care of land and public assets that are important to you and your family, whether it's a sporting park, community hall, beach, showground or nature reserve.

Crown land reserve trust board membership is voluntary, so how long you want to serve on a board is up to you, but many board members enjoy it so much they stay on for years.

Some reserves are permitted to employ and pay elected board members to act as secretary and treasurer.

Boards can also appoint community volunteers, management committees or employ caretakers to help with maintaining the reserve, if needed.

To have a say and make a difference to the future of your local community, join a Crown land reserve trust board. Simply complete the application form available on our website or contact us if you would like us to send you a form.

## Trust Awards

Crown land reserve trust board members are encouraged to nominate and enter the Crown Reserve Trust Award category at the Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Winners can receive a Commonwealth Bank AwardSaver Account of \$5,000 to be used on the Crown Reserve.

For more information, go to [www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA\\_nsw.html](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA_nsw.html).

## More information

For more information, please contact:

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