

DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: A NEW APPROACH TO ENGAGING ABOUT CROWN LAND

Crown land dealings and activities

ABOUT CROWN LAND

The NSW Crown land estate is a vast portfolio of land covering some 34 million hectares. Most Crown land is used for community purposes such as showgrounds, sporting fields, camping and recreation areas, travelling stock reserves and community halls.

A large portion of Crown land is managed and protected for its environmental or heritage values, including beach and foreshore areas and nature reserves.

MANAGEMENT OF CROWN LAND

In NSW, this network of over 580,000 parcels of land is managed by the Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water to benefit the people of NSW.

There are many mechanisms to manage Crown land. The department and other government agencies manage some areas, while other Crown land is managed by third parties via leases, licences or permits. The majority of Crown land used for public purposes is managed by local councils or non-council Crown land managers (current reserve trust managers).

ENGAGING ABOUT DECISIONS AFFECTING CROWN LAND

Under the Community Engagement Strategy, it is proposed that department staff and non-council Crown land managers will conduct community engagement about the following Crown land dealings and activities.

RESERVATIONS AND DEDICATIONS

Dedicated and reserved Crown land is land set aside on behalf of the community for a range of purposes including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services.

The reservations and dedications activities covered by the Community Engagement Strategy include:

- alteration of a reserve or dedication purpose, where there is a complete change of purpose
- removal of a reservation or dedication purpose, where there are multiple purposes for a reservation or dedication and one of these purposes is removed
- revocation of a reserve or dedication
- addition of a purpose to existing reserves or dedications.

LICENCES

The department and Crown land managers can issue licences to individuals, businesses and community organisations for a variety of purposes such as domestic waterfront structures (e.g. jetties and boat ramps), extraction industry operation (e.g. quarries), water supply and access (e.g. pump sites), and licences issued for short term purposes (e.g. sporting events, site remediation works).

LEASES

A lease of Crown land generally enables exclusive use over a piece of land for a specific term and purpose. Leases can be issued by the department or Crown land managers.

Generally, leases are sought over Crown land where longer-term security of tenure is important to the user of the land.

For example, where commercial or long-term uses are proposed and major financial outlay is intended by the proponent or may be required by the department.



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VESTINGS

Vesting of Crown land involves transferring the ownership of Crown land to a new person without requiring payment of money. *The new Crown Land Management Act 2016* enables the Minister to 'vest' Crown land in government agencies if it is in the public interest to do so and the agency's functions make it an appropriate owner and manager of the land. Crown land can also be vested in local councils, but only if it is suitable for local use.

SALES

Crown land has always been available for sale, if it is not required for NSW Government or broader community purposes and in doing so can benefit the state's economy. The department manages development, marketing and sale of Crown land not required for public purposes.

Crown land is sold each year for a range of reasons, including to fill the need of third parties like other government agencies and where the sale will achieve public or community benefits.

PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

A plan of management outlines how reserved or dedicated Crown land is to be used and managed. It consolidates information about the reserves and its users and clearly states what, why, how and by whom the values of a reserve will be managed.

A plan of management considers the purpose for the reserve as well as other guidelines, policies and legal requirements. It may be initiated by the department, the Minister or a Crown land manager.

Plans of management have effect once they are adopted by the Minister.

STATE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CROWN LAND

The State Strategic Plan is a new requirement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*. It will set out the vision, priorities and overarching strategy for management of Crown land in NSW, with regard to the objects of the Act and environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations.

MORE INFORMATION

The Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Guidance and Resources are in draft form and on public exhibition from **Monday 16 October to Sunday 26 November 2017**.

We encourage everyone with an interest in Crown land to review both documents, attend an information session, visit our website and consider making a submission before the documents are finalised.

For more information:



NSW Government Have Your Say
www.nsw.gov.au/improvingnsw

Department of Industry,
Crown Lands & Water
www.crownland.nsw.gov.au



Attend a community information event



Email
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