



# Kevin Humphries MP

## Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water

### Minister for Western NSW

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### TIME RUNNING OUT TO HAVE SAY ON CROWN LANDS REVIEW

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water Kevin Humphries has reminded interested stakeholders and members of the wider community to contribute to the NSW Government's Crown lands legislation White Paper before submissions close later this month.

Mr Humphries said the review of Crown land legislation seeks to cut red tape, return decision-making to local communities and protect community land uses such as surf clubs, scout halls and bowling clubs.

"Crown land accounts for more than 40 per cent of the state, with tens of thousands of community groups, local businesses and farmers depending on Crown reserves across NSW," Mr Humphries said.

"With legislation dating as far back as 1890, now is the time to introduce clearer, simpler and more contemporary legislation to better manage Crown land.

"By cutting red tape and returning decision making to local communities, this review is the most significant reform to Crown land management in a generation.

"The White Paper detailing the proposed legislative amendments has been released for public comment and I would encourage stakeholders and members of the wider community to comment on the proposed legislation before the Government proceeds."

Mr Humphries said the Government's response to the Crown Lands Management Review would include slashing the amount of legislation stifling Crown land management by repealing eight pieces of outdated and overlapping legislation and introducing a new single Act.

"Unfortunately the management of Crown land has become overly complex, which makes it difficult for the community to manage their reserves and facilities operating on Crown land such as CWA halls, men's sheds, scout halls, surf clubs, kiosks, cafes and market gardens," Mr Humphries said.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is determined to make managing Crown land easier and ensure the huge range of social, environmental and economic benefits Crown lands deliver to the people of NSW continue well into the future."

Mr Humphries said there is a section specifically on Western Lands, with the Government particularly seeking feedback surrounding leasehold arrangements.

"Landholders are restricted in what they can do, and if parts of the state are able to be freehold it would certainly give such landholders more opportunity to freely engage in anything from tourism activity to farming," Mr Humphries said.

"Responses to the White Paper are steadily coming in and I encourage people to give themselves enough time to review the information and make a submission."

The White Paper can be found at [www.crownland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au) and submissions will be accepted until 20 June 2014.