

Q What is the draft Community Engagement Strategy?

A The draft Community Engagement Strategy for Crown land offers a new approach to engaging about Crown land in NSW.

It will be used by Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water staff and non-council Crown land managers to support community engagement about a range of Crown land actions—from certain types of licences and leases, to Crown land sales and the preparation of plans of management.

While the Community Engagement Strategy is a statutory requirement of the new *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, it also acknowledges and responds to feedback from the community for greater involvement in decisions about Crown land.

It will support transparent and proportionate engagement with local communities so that decision makers can develop a better understanding of how people use and value Crown land.

Together with the supporting, non-statutory Crown Land Engagement Guidance and Resources toolkit, the Community Engagement Strategy gives department staff and non-council Crown land managers a solid foundation for reliable, practical and real-world engagement about Crown land.

Q Who is the Community Engagement Strategy for?

A The Community Engagement Strategy will be used by most people responsible for managing Crown land under the new *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

This includes the Minister for Lands and Forestry, Secretary and staff of the Department of Industry, and non-council Crown land managers. (See also *Information about non-council Crown land manager's* fact sheet).

The exception is local council Crown land managers who must comply with the engagement requirement of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Community Engagement Strategy is also a valuable resource for the community. It provides certainty and transparency about which Crown land dealings and activities department staff and non-council Crown land managers will engage about, when and how engagement will occur, and the range of engagement activities that will be used.

Q How does the Community Engagement Strategy benefit the community?

A The Community Engagement Strategy will:

- move from traditional and limited notification-focused engagement to modern, best-practice approaches
- formalise and strengthen opportunities for community engagement and involvement
- provide greater certainty and transparency, with clearly outlined engagement requirements for specific Crown land dealings and activities
- be supported by a customised Community Engagement Guidance and Resources document with practical guidance and step-by-step processes to support department staff and non-council Crown land managers to deliver the engagement requirements of the Strategy.

Q Has the Community Engagement Strategy been finalised?

A No, it has not. Both the *Community Engagement Strategy* and *Community Engagement Guidance and Resources* documents are in draft form and on public exhibition from **Monday 16 October** to **Sunday 26 November 2017**.

Full copies of both documents, together with related fact sheets and an information video, are available on the [NSW Government Have Your Say website](#) and the [Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water website](#).

We encourage everyone with an interest in Crown land to come along to a community information drop-in session, review both documents, and consider making a submission.

The Community Engagement Strategy must be signed off by the Minister before it can be adopted. It is expected that final versions of both documents will be published on the department website prior to the new *Crown Land Management Act 2016* commencing in 2018.

Q How can I make a submission?

A Submissions can be a short letter or email outlining your views or a longer document with more detailed feedback. If you plan to make a submission, we encourage you to:

- consider the discussion prompts provided on the submission form
- write clearly and be specific about any areas of concern or support
- specify whether you are referring to the Community Engagement Strategy or Community Engagement Guidance and Resources toolkit and note the relevant section of each document
- provide a succinct summary of your views to help us understand your viewpoint
- tell us about any alternatives, ideas or suggestions you may like to offer.

There are several ways to provide feedback before the public exhibition period closes on Sunday 26 November 2017:

- email your submission to ces.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
- make a submission online via links on the [NSW Government Have Your Say](#) or [Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water](#) website
- post your submission to Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water, PO Box 2185, Dangar NSW 2309
- in person at one of our community information drop-in events.

Q Where will the community information sessions be held?

A We encourage you to come along to one of the five community information sessions that will be held around NSW:

Dubbo – Tuesday 31 October 3-6pm

Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre
Oxley Room
155 Darling Street
Dubbo NSW 2830

Ballina – Wednesday 1 November 3-6pm

Ballina Surf Club
Gawandi Room
65 Lighthouse Parade
East Ballina NSW 2478

Wagga Wagga – Thursday 2 November 3-6pm

Charles Sturt University
Gulballanna Room C
Boorooma Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678

Newcastle – Monday 6 November 3-6pm

Newcastle City Hall
Mulubinba Room
290 King Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Sydney – Thursday 9 November 3-6pm

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts
280 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

All information sessions will be attended by Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water staff who will be available to talk about the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Guidance and Resources toolkit, answer questions and provide you with a submission form.

Q How will my feedback be used?

A It is important for us to hear from people who will both use and benefit from the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Resources and Guidance toolkit.

Your feedback and submissions are vital to help us understand your views. All submissions will be reviewed and incorporated into a report that will inform the final Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Resources and Guidance documents.

Q When will the Community Engagement Strategy and supporting Community Engagement Guidance and Resources documents be finalised?

A Following the public exhibition, Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water will consider all community feedback and submissions before finalising the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Guidance and Resources toolkit.

The Community Engagement Strategy must be signed off the Minister before it can be adopted.

It is expected that a final version of both documents will be published on the department website in early 2018.

Q Who can I contact if I have any questions?

A If you would like more information or have any questions:

- Visit [NSW Government Have Your Say](#) or [Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water](#)
- Email community.engagement@crowland.nsw.gov.au
- Call 1300 886 235

Q When will the Community Engagement Strategy take effect?

A The Community Engagement Strategy will be formally adopted by the Minister for Lands and Forestry when the new Crown land legislation commences in 2018.

From this point, the engagement requirements of the Community Engagement Strategy will apply to Crown land dealings and activities that are both in scope of the Community Engagement Strategy and conducted on or from the commencement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Q Will there be a future review of the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Guidance and Resources?

A Yes, the Community Engagement Strategy will be reviewed within five years of adoption to ensure it remains in line with community expectations and state priorities.

The Community Engagement Guidance and Resources toolkit is an evolving document that will be regularly updated to ensure it continues to support best practice community engagement about Crown land.