

# Crown Lands Division Report

Ensuring responsible  
and sustainable  
management of Crown  
lands for the people of NSW

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# Crown Lands Division Report

**When the Department of Lands (Lands) was recreated in 2003 the Crown Lands Division was established to provide a property management service to take over management of Crown land from the former Department of Land and Water Conservation. The Crown Lands Division has progressed since that time in its role as a responsible land manager optimising the environmental, economic and social outcomes on Crown land for the benefit of the people of NSW.**

Following a significant reform program commenced in 2003 and the restructuring of the Crown Lands Division to a program management delivery model, Crown Lands Division has established a platform for Crown reserve management, commercial flexibility and a strengthened ability to protect environmental values, which are now starting to benefit the NSW community and the property sector.

Fundamental to the ethos of the Crown Lands Division is that Crown lands are a major asset of the state, and that these assets deliver important social, environmental and economic benefits including development opportunities, stronger regional and rural economies, regional jobs, improved access to public land, business investment, public infrastructure and opportunities to participate in the growth strategies of NSW, including public-private partnerships.

Crown Lands Division has developed and negotiated partnerships with state and local government agencies, local trust boards, private enterprise and industry to help identify and utilise the potential of Crown land assets in the maritime, industrial, residential and tourism development arenas.

In recognition of these achievements, the NSW Government has transferred the Western Lands Division from the Department of Natural Resource to Lands—under the direct management of the Crown Lands Division. After operating separately for some time Western Lands will now benefit from the new direction and initiatives being developed by the Crown Lands Division. For the first time in over 100 years, Crown land management in the Eastern, Central and Western Divisions will be coordinated and integrated as Western Lands becomes the fifth administrative region of the Crown Lands Division.

Crown Lands Division is the custodian of Crown land status information and under the *4c h \_ =R\_Ud2Te"\*) \** administers Crown land held under leases, licences or permit. Crown Lands Division manages land retained in public ownership for future public use and environmental protection purposes and the lands of the Crown public roads network.

Crown land is allocated for public uses, including schools, hospitals, sports grounds, community recreation, conservation and housing development. A significant portion of Crown land is also available for alternative uses, including leasing for commercial or agricultural purposes, through to land development and sale to meet the needs of expanding regional and rural communities.

Crown Lands Division recognises that land is a vital resource and aims to protect and manage Crown lands to provide public value to the community through the following programs:

- managing and administering Crown lands under lease, licence or permit; lands within the Crown public roads network, Crown lands within the Regional Reserve system and other reserves

- managing and administering Western Lands Leases under the *H VdVc\_ =R\_Ud2Te" \*! "*
- allocating land to meet the needs of expanding regional communities by responding to demand and providing residential land for quality home sites and industrial and commercial lands to facilitate business development
- managing land sustainably by conserving natural resources for future generations through the creation of conservation reserves, whilst also providing development and production opportunities for local communities
- developing and enhancing our public reserves to meet contemporary and community expectations
- supporting farmers by enhancing agricultural opportunities with lease and licences to graze animals and for crop farming
- researching Aboriginal land claims and preparing advice to the Minister for Lands to determine claims under the *2S` cXZ\_RJ =R\_U CZYed2Te" \*) \$*
- managing applications made under the *4` ^ ^ ` \_h VRJeY ? ReZV EZV 2Te " \*\* \$* affecting land in NSW
- supporting the Western Land Advisory Council in advising the Minister on and promoting the social, economic and environmental interests of the Western Division
- administering the *Wild Dog 5VdVf TeZ \_ 2Te" \*#"*.

## Services

Crown Lands Division offers a diverse range of services including:

- marketing and disposal of Crown land for residential, commercial, industrial and rural use



- application for lease, licences, enclosure permits and purchase of Crown land
- conversion/purchase of Crown leasehold tenures
- reservation of Crown land and assistance in management of local community reserves
- administration of Crown roads
- Native Title investigation
- management of 25 fishing ports along the east coast of NSW
- responsibility for management of the reserved Crown submerged land including all land up to three nautical miles to sea
- land survey and title creation for Crown lands including Mean High Watermark definitions and Aboriginal land claims
- general enquiries about Crown land and payment of Crown land accounts
- management of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project under joint project arrangement with the Queensland Government
- administering Western Lands Leases.

### Customers

Crown Lands Division clients and customers are diverse and range from the Minister to other government and local government agencies, community groups and individuals.

Crown Lands Division actively promotes partnerships with local government authorities, reflecting the adoption of proactive management of the Crown estate. Councils have been supportive of this new focus of Lands.

Crown Lands Division is also developing professional business relationships to establish broad criteria that will assist both parties in achieving corporate goals.

Crown Lands Division recognises community support obligations to non-profit organisations, charity groups, pensioners and rural community members who occupy Crown lands and who encountered financial hardship by providing rental concessions to the value of \$6.5m.

Crown Lands Division is also working in cooperation with the community and its stakeholders to ensure the smooth implementation of a number of government reforms to Crown land management.

### Principal Officers

**Graham Harding**, General Manager  
Crown Lands Division

**Stephen Francis**, Director of Commercial Development, Fellow of Australian Property Institute, EngSurvCert, AssocDipSmBus, ProfCertPropLaw, GradDipTechMgmt, BBus(Land Economy)

**Adrian Harte**, Director of Land Management, BSc(Agric), MRurSc, GradDipPubSecMgmt

**Graeme Ford**, Director of Business Services Crown Lands, Land & Engineering Survey Drafting Cert, Post Land & Engineering Survey Drafting Cert

**Craig Barnes**, Regional Manager North Coast, Registered Surveyor, BSurv, GradCertBusTech

**Leanne Taylor**, Regional Manager South, BA, MEd

**Andrew McAnespie**, Regional Manager Sydney-Hunter, BSurv, GradDipPubSecMgmt

**Peter Walker**, Regional Manager Central, BSc(Agric)

**Geoff Woods**, Regional Manager Western, Western Lands Commissioner, DipAgric

**Craig Abbs**, Director Coastal and Estuary Infrastructure, BEng (Civil) Hons

**Jennifer Jude**, Director Native Title and Aboriginal Land Claims, BA, LLB(Hons), LLM, GradDiplnf/Sci (Lib)

**Richard Hunt**, Director Crown Lands Policy, BSc, MTCP, MBA, Solicitor

### Aims and objectives for 2006/07

- Responsible Crown land management to optimise environmental and socio-economic benefit to the state.
- Development of a Regional Crown Reserve Network.
- Development of Master Plans for the future direction and development of Crown land maritime precincts at Coffs Harbour, Southern Harbour, Tweed Heads, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Port Stephens.
- Develop partnerships with local government at Port Macquarie, Great Lakes, Ballina, Tweed Heads and Wollongong.
- Continue development of a commercial entity business framework to guide the operations of Crown Lands Division.
- Improve environmental outcomes by collaborating with Catchment Management Authorities (CMA).
- Negotiate and allocate Crown land for controlled feral animal reduction in conjunction with the Game Council of NSW.
- Streamline processes and reduce cost of administration of Crown land.
- Implement IPART reforms for telecommunication sites.
- Improve return on operational Crown lands.



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- Prepare and implement a fire management program.
- Improve management of reserves held under trust.
- Identify appropriate strategic training opportunities for Crown Lands Division.
- Development of rail trails and walking tracks.
- Continue to achieve the objectives of keeping the Tweed River Entrance navigable and Gold Coast beaches nourished.

### Key projects

#### **Responsible Crown land management to optimise environmental and socio-economic benefit to the state**

##### **Lightning Ridge residential leases (camps on claims)**

'Residential' Western Lands Leases (WLLs) are being granted over minerals claims on Lightning Ridge opal fields which have residential status. This scheme has been developed to provide bankable title for residential mineral claims. Approximately 800 invitations have been issued for claims holders located on Crown land immediately surrounding Lightning Ridge to apply

for a WLL. The project completion is dependent upon the state government being able to purchase those parts of the WLLs affected by residential minerals claims.

##### **Pied Oystercatcher Project**

Following concerns raised by the local community in South Ballina (far north coast of NSW) of the poor breeding success of Pied Oystercatchers in the local area, Crown Lands Division worked in partnership with other government agencies, local landholders and the local community to facilitate cooperative land management.

The project aimed to minimise impacts on the threatened Pied Oystercatcher through the development of the 'Threatened Species (Pied Oystercatcher) Management Strategy'. This strategy was formally adopted by Lands in February 2007 and plans for implementation over a five-year period with a review at the end of this period.

The key outcomes of the strategy include the continuation of a fox abatement program on both public and private lands, raising of the community awareness and involvement in the protection of the Pied Oystercatcher, implementation of a 4WD and horse riding permit and code of conduct, provision of strategic 4WD and pedestrian beach access and

encouragement of scientific research into sustainable visitor use and ecology of pipis as a Pied Oystercatcher food source. The strategy has also had direct benefit to 26 threatened flora and fauna species within the area.

##### **Oyster industry**

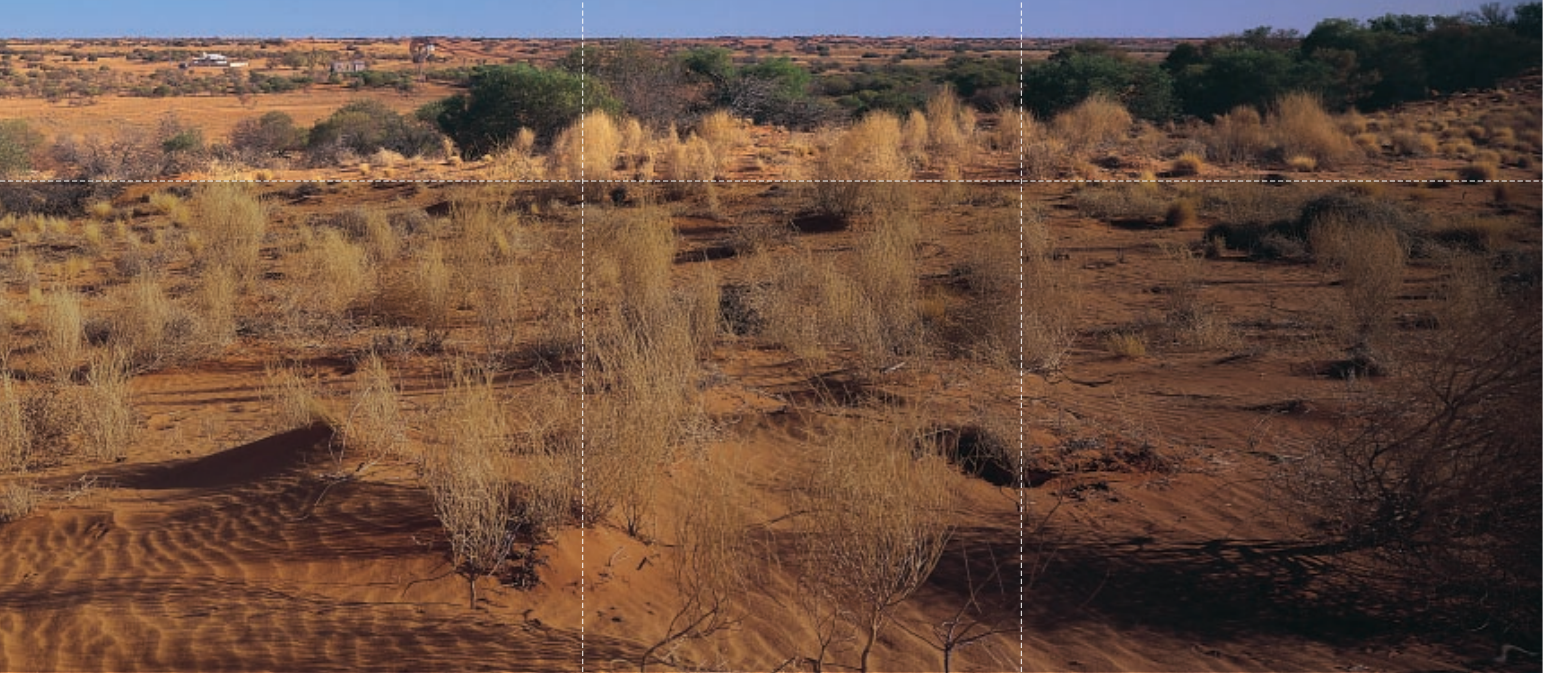
At the initiative of the Premier's Department, the Crown Lands Division has participated in a whole of government review into the oyster industry.

Crown Lands Division is now working to implement a range of reforms to meet government, industry and community expectations.

The work involves negotiation of new long-term leases for the land component, including a leaseholder Work Plan for rehabilitation of their degraded Crown land and the capture of survey information of existing and orphaned Crown land used by oyster growers.

A standard oyster lease and a work plan template has been developed and adopted. Methodology has been established to efficiently and economically capture accurate survey information. The three coastal regions have commenced work on the project which is expected to take three years to complete.





### Development of master plans for the future direction and development of Crown land maritime precincts

#### Batemans Bay

Batemans Bay marina is a rare opportunity on the south coast of NSW to design, construct and operate a marina and associated tourist facility under a long term lease with all 12.3 hectares of Crown land remaining in public ownership.

The existing marina has a maximum capacity of 126 berths and has not been increased since 1982. The marina structure is also nearing the end of its useful life and needs upgrading to current standards. Crown Lands Division has embarked on a major project to redevelop the marina into a world-class facility for the region.

#### Ulladulla Harbour

In this beautiful South Coast port, Crown Lands Division has taken the lead in consulting with the Ulladulla Fishing Co-op, other Ulladulla Harbour users, the Department of Planning, Premier's Department and Shoalhaven City Council to understand the community needs for the future of Ulladulla Harbour. A \$30,000 Lands grant was made available to council to

link planning for the town with these plans for the harbour.

Outcomes for the new harbour will be enhanced public infrastructure and expanded commercial opportunities.

#### Nelson Bay foreshore

Crown Lands Division is working with Port Stephens Council to implement a planned and integrated approach to the development, ongoing maintenance and use of Crown land assets for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike.

A new office has been established in Nelson Bay, providing the focal point for continued consultation with council, the community and local industry to improve the recreational, economic and tourism potential of the Nelson Bay foreshore. Crown Lands Division has a commitment to ensure significant tracts of Crown reserved land in the Port Stephens area are managed in the best interests of the community.

#### Coffs Harbour

At Coffs Harbour, Crown Lands Division is working with council and community representatives on a vision for the harbour precinct that will support this dynamic and vibrant city by providing for family, fun, jobs, culture and the environment.

The project aims to provide a safe and sustainable outer harbour entrance, an expanded number of marina berths, an improved boat ramp and loading facilities and improved recreational, commercial and tourism opportunities.

A \$316,000 repair program to the northern Coffs Harbour break wall has been underway with completion set for June this year.

### Improving returns on operational Crown lands

#### Lot 490, Kingscliff

A Crown Lands Plan of Management was the primary driver for the appropriate environmental and responsible development and management of Lot 490 at Kingscliff, located immediately between the village of Kingscliff to the north and Salt Village Resort to the south. The drafting of the plan required and warranted extensive public consultation, as the Crown Lands Division recognised the importance of appropriate environmental management of this strategic Crown land reserve for tourist facilities and services.

The Lot 490 Plan of Management provides for an eco-tourism style resort to be developed on the site under a

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long-term lease arrangement. Leighton Properties (Brisbane) Pty Ltd has been chosen as the preferred developer for Lot 490 and is proceeding under contractual agreement to further investigations, including community consultation, before a Development Application is lodged. The proposed resort combines a range of recreational options while ensuring protection and enhancement of the whole and larger site's environmental values.

The re-alignment of the Tweed Coast Way is a further key outcome from this project and will resolve longstanding issues including road status, safe public access to beach areas and improved management of the adjoining coastal and river reserves.

## Extractive industries

A project has commenced to review the use of Crown land for extractive industries and determine a process that will ensure a fair and reasonable return to the state.

The allocation of resources should be balanced in terms of the best use of the resource and the economic, social and environmental factors.

Royalty income from extractive industries exceeds \$3.6 million.

## Caravan and Camping Extension Program

Crown Lands Division manages 267 of the 900-plus caravan and camping grounds across NSW, and is working to create further opportunities in this area.

Crown Lands Division is identifying potential new caravan parks and camp sites on Crown land in partnership with the NSW Caravan and Camping Industry Association. This initiative will be a boost to this expanding industry and will provide jobs, a range of recreational opportunities and enjoyment for an increasing number of people across NSW.

## Improve environmental outcomes by collaborating with Catchment Management Authorities

Crown Lands Division has continued its collaboration with all Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) in NSW to ensure that the enhanced management of Crown lands and direction of the Division's programs contributes appropriately to the achievement of natural resource management targets described by Catchment Action Plans. The most significant agreement to date is with the Border River/Gwydir CMA who will contribute funds to ensure that critical native vegetation of former perpetual leases occurs into perpetuity. Other examples include:

- removal of environmental weeds to ensure enhanced management of endangered ecological communities in the Clyde Estuary Batemans Bay and at Seven Mile beach (Southern Rivers CMA)
- stabilising public access points on the dune complex at Empire Vale on the north coast (Northern Rivers CMA)
- stabilising eroding pedestrian access ways on ocean headlands with critical vegetation at Crescent Head (Northern Rivers CMA).

## Streamline process and reduce costs of administration of Crown land

### Crown land reforms

Crown Lands Division has continued implementation of the Crown land reforms through disposal of perpetual leases and Crown roads held under enclosure permits. The conversion of these tenures to private freehold ownership will provide significant reductions in the administration costs of the Crown Lands Division.

## White Cliffs dugouts

This project aims to provide secure title for the current 120 residential dugouts that are currently permissive occupancies/licences issued under the *4c h\_ =R\_Ud2Te" \**. The proposed scheme is dependent on the local council amending its Local Environmental Plan and dedicating access roads to the dugout sites. A White Cliffs Dugouts working group has been established to review the opportunities to provide secure title for dugouts at White Cliffs.

This will provide substantial reductions to the Crown Lands Division in the costs of administering Western Lands leases.

## Development of regional Crown reserves

### Development of Regional Crown Reserves System

A Regional Crown Reserves System has been established across NSW to ensure Crown land management remains relevant to the modern needs of local communities and continues to fulfil the Crown Lands Division's commitment to making land available to the people of NSW for public use, enjoyment and protection.

To ensure the use and management of Crown land supports regional economies and public requirements, and to increase our capacity to direct resources where they are needed most, the Crown Lands Division's regional reserve strategy aggregates Crown land into larger units for improved planning and management. Regional Crown reserves mean land can be assessed and managed in a holistic way, in consultation with the community rather than in isolation.

Regional Crown reserves allow for the sustainable management of the environmental values of land, natural resources and heritage, as well as allowing for rural and urban services to promote active public use, tourism opportunities and regional growth.

### Completion of Coleambally Regional Crown Reserve

Situated on 1,492 hectares of Crown land, the Coleambally Regional Crown Reserve situated within the Coleambally Irrigation Area was gazetted on 2 March 2007. Consisting of 17 parcels of Crown land, the Coleambally Regional Crown Reserve was created to integrate single parcels of land under one single management framework in order to preserve significant areas of native vegetation and endangered wildlife and to maintain and preserve the natural bush corridor for future generations. Crown Lands Division has developed a management strategy for the Crown reserve in consultation with Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited and the Murrumbidgee Management Catchment Authority.

### Development of rail trails and walking tracks

The aim of the Recreational Trails Strategy is to broaden the range of opportunities available to the public to undertake recreational activities on Crown land. Accordingly there are a number of initiatives being developed including:

- using the new Goolawah State Park to add a coastal walking trail to the suite of inland walking tracks currently managed by Lands
- in conjunction with Canoe NSW, Crown Lands Division is piloting a system of canoe trails linking Crown reserves on inland and coastal river systems (initially Macquarie and Murrumbidgee Rivers)
- selecting and promoting, in association with Rural Land Protection Boards, a number of iconic Travelling Stock Routes that link into existing trail networks to broaden the opportunities for recreational horse riding
- supporting and managing existing recreational trail assets to broaden their appeal
- facilitating and encouraging the development of rail trails by offering to manage disused rail corridors under the 4c h\_ =R\_Ud2Te" \*) \*
- working cooperatively with local government to use Crown reserves for public access and recreation.

### Performance highlights Batemans Bay

Ariadne Australia Ltd has been announced the successful proponent for the redevelopment of the Batemans Bay Marina, chosen on its ability to meet the challenge of redeveloping this important marina precinct into a world-class facility for the region.

The proposal, developed in consultation with industry and the community, includes a new 240-wet berth marina, a 250-vessel drystack facility, a commercial precinct that will provide services such as a chandlery, cafes, restaurants and tourism-related businesses and a tourist accommodation precinct.

This project will generate job opportunities, economic growth and a greater variety of services, not only for Batemans Bay, but the entire south coast of NSW.

### Angourie National Surfing Reserve

Crown Lands Division worked in partnership with the local community,

the National Surfing Reserves Committee (NSRC) and Clarence Valley Council to create the first legally protected surfing reserve under the 4c h\_ =R\_Ud2Te" \*) \* on 12 January 2007. This provides a statutory significance to the symbolic dedication and identifies the significance of the Crown estate in the surfing culture and Australian lifestyle.

Angourie is an internationally iconic surfing site on the north coast of NSW, near Yamba. The project recognises the cultural and historic importance of Australian surfing and helps raise awareness about the importance of protecting our precious coastal environment.

A community celebration was held to commemorate the dedication with hundreds of people attending on the day. A booklet was produced and a plaque installed to commemorate the event.

### Vessel sewage pump out facility, Huskisson

Under the Waterways program, an amount of \$100,000 was funded for a new environmentally friendly service for pumping out effluent from boats in Huskisson, Jervis Bay.

The facility was the first of its kind to be provided in the bay improving water quality and encouraging tourism and recreational vessels to visit the area. The project was a partnership with Shoalhaven City Council who has taken over responsibility for maintenance of the facility. Its day-to-day operation is managed by the Huskisson Wharf Management Committee.

### State Rail transfer of land to the Crown

The Minister for Transport vested seventeen surplus rail sites in the Sydney/Hunter, Central West and





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Southern Regions in the Crown. A number of these sites have heritage significance which includes the former Meadowbank Rail Bridge over the Parramatta River which is used as a shared pathway for cyclists and pedestrians connecting Meadowbank and Rhodes. The seventeen sites are now part of the State Rail Crown Reserve managed by the Lands Administration Ministerial Corporation. State Rail has provided funds for management of the Meadowbank Bridge and the establishment of the Porcupine Track at Helensburgh.

### Prince Henry at Little Bay Reserves

Landcom is currently redeveloping the former Prince Henry Hospital site at Little Bay as a major urban development precinct. The NSW Government has determined the major recreational, heritage, environmental and community facilities will be managed as Crown reserves by a trust. The facilities include the Coast Golf Course and Club, the Nurses Museum and Chapel, site for Aboriginal Women's Health, Surf Life Saving, land on which rare geological features occur and land containing a rare community of Eastern Suburbs Banksia.

The first parcel of land was gifted to the Crown in May 2007 for the creation of a new reserve which will be managed by the Prince Henry at Little Bay Reserve Trust. Subsequent parcels of land and buildings will be reserved as the development timetable for the site permits. The trust is currently controlled by Landcom. Its role will cease at the completion of the development after which a new management body will be appointed. The government is providing funding to the trust to manage these lands.

### Ashfield School of Arts

The 2005 amendments to the *4c h \_ =R\_Ud2Te" \** allowed for the transfer of schools of arts into the Crown Reserve System.

The Ashfield School of Arts building had been abandoned and derelict for many years. The remaining trustees agreed to transfer the site to the Crown on the basis that it be reserved for community purposes and the Exodus Foundation installed as the Reserve Trust Manager.

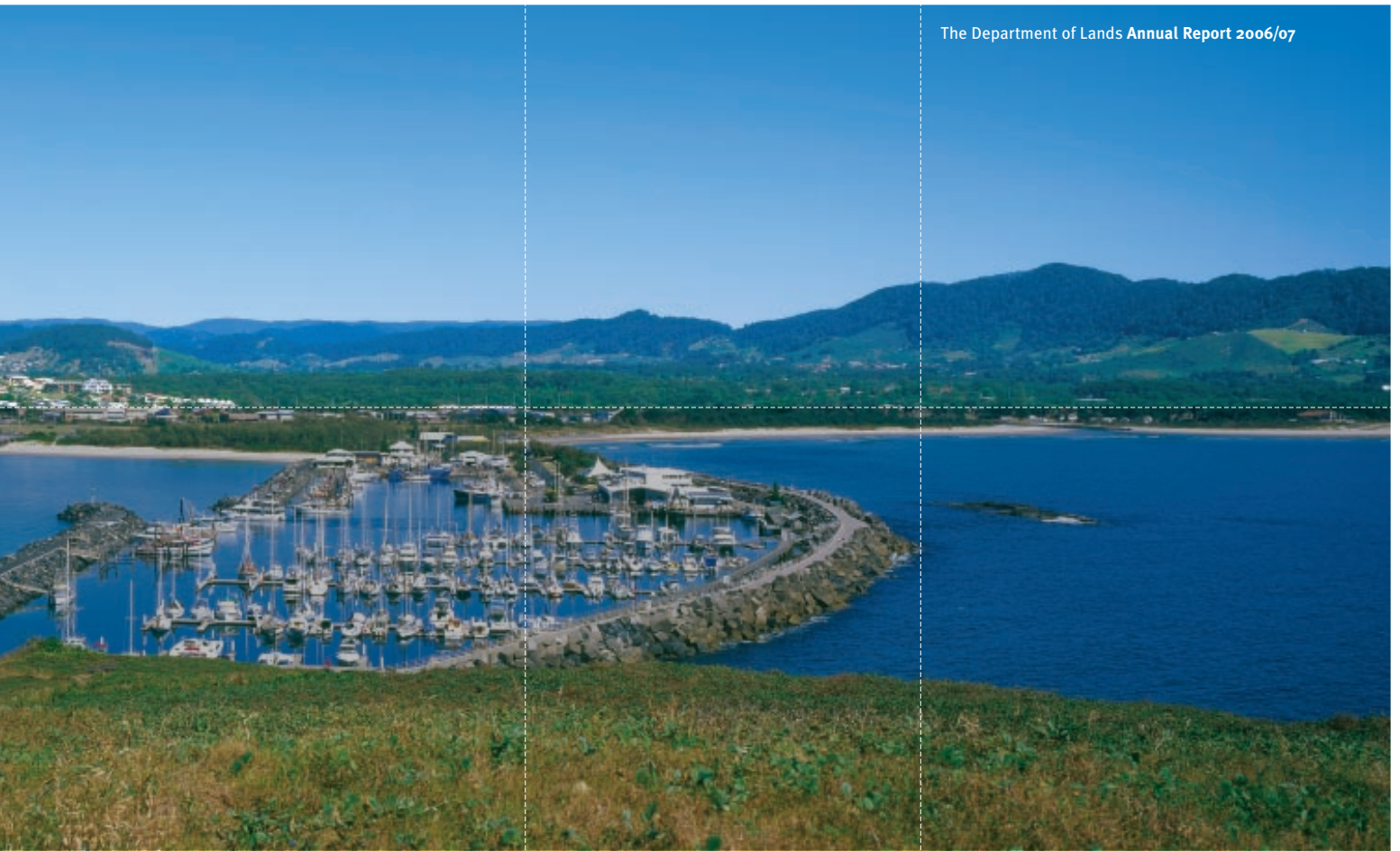
Minister Kelly attended the handover of the Ashfield building to Exodus Foundation in February 2007. It is the intention of the Exodus Foundation to

conduct youth services and counselling from this site and a fundraising campaign aimed at upgrading the building has already been undertaken that will be complemented with significant grant funding from the government.

### Presentation of 118 Long Service Awards

The presentation of Long Service Awards for trust members of Crown reserves was presented during the year to acknowledge 10 or more years representation of various trusts throughout Land Administration (West) area. A total of 43 awards were presented at Deniliquin and Goolgowi representing the Hay area of administration; 63 awards were presented at West Wyalong and Leeton representing the Griffith area; and 12 awards were presented at Ganmain, Tumut and Junee representing the Wagga area. The awards were presented at ceremonies to signify Lands' appreciation of time, effort and commitment given by trust members in representing Lands.





### Transfer of Western Division to Crown Lands Division

Implementation of the transfer of Western Lands from Department of Natural Resources to Lands to consolidate the administration and management of all Crown land in NSW into the one agency which will result in the delivery of better services to Western NSW.

### Bloomfield

A draft assessment went on public exhibition for 240 hectares of Crown land at Bloomfield, on the southern outskirts of Orange. The review includes reserved land covering the Agricultural Institute, TAFE, rifle range, various recreation reserves and a minor travelling stock reserve on the periphery of the city.

### Newcastle Bowling Club

A draft Plan of Management was launched for community comment on the former Newcastle Bowling Club site. The draft plan aimed to achieve the optimal use of the site taking into account its magnificent strategic location and the strong interest of the broader community.

### Enclosure permits

To ease the financial burden of rural landholders as a result of the drought, the \$350 rent fee for enclosure permits has been extended for a further three years until 2010. This means the holder will only pay a \$350 fee for the next three years instead of an annual rent. Enclosure permit rents will be reviewed again towards the end of June 2010.

Land holders are still able to purchase enclosed roads permits under the government's initiative and, to date, almost 7,000 permit holders have chosen this option.

### Nelson Bay foreshore

The next phase of planning the future of the Nelson Bay foreshore is underway after strong community response to the vision document issued by Crown Lands Division and Port Stephens Council. Formal submissions on the Nelson Bay Foreshore Vision are currently being evaluated providing a basis for the development of a draft Plan of Management.

### Killalea

A development agreement was signed to build eco-tourism holiday facilities at Killalea State Park on the south coast and to improve public access to the park

with board walks, viewing areas and other publicly accessible amenities. The development will ensure Killalea's future as a top tourist destination and secure a sustainable future for the park.

### Trust Handbook

The Trust Handbook was comprehensively revised and updated, and expanded to provide support and information to local councils and other corporate trust managers of Crown reserves. The handbook gives guidance and assistance to management, staff and board members of reserve trusts and commons in performing the duties they have accepted. It contains general information and guidelines as well as regulatory requirements on how to manage a reserve.

### Carbon sequestration

The *4c h \_ =R Ud =VXZjReZ \_ 14RCS` \_ DVbf VdeReZ \_ /2Te#! !`* commenced on 9 February 2007. This legislation enables Crown lands to be used as carbon sinks in the same manner as freehold lands across NSW. Carbon sinks may be established through planting trees to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon sequestration through forestry relies on the natural process of photosynthesis in which carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

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and water from the soil are converted to starch and oxygen. The carbon is effectively captured in the structure of the tree. Tradeable carbon credits are currently granted under the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme administered by IPART (the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal), though a national market is proposed.

This Act amends the *4c h \_ =R\_Ud 2Te" \*) \** and the *H VdVc\_ =R\_Ud 2Te" \*) \** to provide for the grant of carbon sequestration rights over Crown leasehold lands, including Western Lands Leases and other Crown land. In respect of Crown land held under lease, the Minister for Lands may grant a carbon sequestration right with the consent of the lessee. Where the lease is a lease in perpetuity, the lessee may also grant the rights with the consent of the Minister, but subject to such terms and conditions as the Minister sees fit.

Any grant of carbon credits will result in the imposition of forestry covenants and restrictions on use of the land. These covenants and restrictions require the establishment and maintenance of plantations on affected lands for at least 100 years.

## Crown lands, native title, Aboriginal land claims and status directorate

Crown Lands Legal has continued to provide legal support to the Crown Lands Division and has assisted in the drafting and review of a number of leases for proposed development on Crown lands.

A proforma lease and licence document has been developed for reserve trusts and a proforma licence is under development for the Lands Administration Ministerial Corporation.

The Native Title Branch continued to provide assistance to the Minister in his provision of a response to the native title process in NSW and negotiated

four Indigenous Land Use Agreements to resolve native title applications and one future act Indigenous Land Use Agreement for a wind-farm. Forty two native title applications are filed in the Federal Court and this number is expected to reduce to 38 once the Indigenous Land Use Agreements are registered.

The Aboriginal Land Claims Investigation Branch has continued to support the Minister in the Aboriginal land claims process pursuant to the *2S` cXZ\_Rj =R\_U CZYed 2Te" \*) \$*. This process has continued to result in a very high number of Aboriginal Land Claims being lodged over Crown lands in NSW and in 36 appeals to the Land and Environment Court from the Minister's determinations. One appeal has been made to the Supreme Court by an Aboriginal Land Council from a decision in the Land and Environment Court in respect of a land claim at Wagga Wagga where the claimed land contains a building.

Status branch has continued to assist in providing tenure history and mapping support for the Native Title and Aboriginal Land Claims Branches in respect of the mapping required for Indigenous Land Use Agreements and the evidence required to be filed on behalf of the state in the Federal Court in the native title process and on behalf of the Minister in the Land and Environment Court in the Aboriginal Land Claims process.

## Report on operations Minor Ports, River Entrances and Waterways Programs

Crown Lands Division manages three NSW Government programs related to maritime infrastructure for coastal regional NSW. These programs contribute strongly to achievement of NSW State Plan objectives related

to stronger regional and rural economies, maintaining and investing in infrastructure and encouraging more people to use recreational facilities.

## Minor Ports Program

The Minor Ports Program provides and maintains port infrastructure as well as safe, secure port access to 25 fishing ports along the NSW east coast, with a total replacement value of approximately \$700 million.

Minor ports cater for the commercial fishing industry, the growing tourism industry, the recreational boating industry and local communities. They play an important role in contributing to healthy NSW coastal communities, providing opportunities for economic growth, jobs, tourism and recreation.

Projects under this program include road works and port services to improve operations, public access works to promote visitation to foreshore areas, infrastructure such as unloading wharves and mooring jetties, breakwater repairs and maintenance dredging.

Highlights of projects undertaken during 2006/07 include wharf and retaining wall repairs at Ulladulla (\$400,000); roadworks, car parking and drainage at Crowdy Head (\$270,000) and breakwall repairs at Coffs Harbour (\$320,000).

### Ulladulla Harbour

Lands undertook significant works in Ulladulla Harbour under the Minor Ports Program to ensure that assets in this key south coast port continued to operate in a safe and sustainable manner.

Major repairs were carried out on the tuna wharf, with some \$300,000 invested in repairs to corroded sheet piling, upgrading of the fender system and additional bollards providing for safe mooring within the harbour for larger vessels.



In addition, a \$100,000 repair program was undertaken to the heritage-listed sandstone wall built in 1864 in the historic precinct of the harbour. These works were required to overcome local undermining of the wall.

### River Entrances Program

The principal objectives of the River Entrances Program are to maintain breakwaters and half tide training walls at 21 river entrances along the NSW coastline and to minimise public risk liability at these breakwaters. With a total estimated value of \$900 million, these structures play a pivotal role in the safe navigation of marine vessels, including commercial fishing fleets and recreational boaters.

Works funded under this program include maintenance of breakwaters and river training walls, dredging of river entrance bars and improved access to breakwaters for community use.

Projects completed in 2006/07 include breakwater repairs and upgrading at Tweed River (\$259,000) and Camden Haven (\$150,000).

### Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project

Lands manages the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project, which is a joint initiative of the NSW and Queensland governments.

The objectives of the project are to ensure the entrance to the Tweed River remains navigable and the southern Gold Coast beaches are nourished with a regular supply of sand. The sand bypassing system intercepts and removes sand that is moving naturally northward along the coastline towards the river entrance.

Sand bypassing operations reduce the sand fed into the river entrance area and have maintained a clear navigation channel at the entrance since the start of operations in 2001. Recent

monitoring has revealed a substantial increase in the number of recreational and commercial vessels using the entrance.

\$259,000 was provided to undertake important repairs to the Tweed River Breakwater critical to ensure continued functioning and safe public access. Some 3,000 cubic metres of additional armour rock were added to the southern slopes of the breakwater.

### Waterways Program

The Waterways Program aims to ensure sustainable use of waterways and foreshores which are Crown land and to improve public access for recreation and amenity for public use. These projects operate in partnership with local government.

Works under this program include waterway planning, recreational boating infrastructure studies, launching ramps, wharves and associated facilities such as car parking, landscaping and lighting. The program also caters for maintenance dredging and assistance in the reduction of waterway pollution by providing Vessel Sewage Pump-out Facilities (VSPFs).

The major project completed in 2006/07 was a new vessel sewage pump-out facility at Huskisson, for which \$100,000 was provided. The project was carried out in partnership with Shoalhaven City Council (see page 53 for further details).

### Drought Communities Crown Reserves Improvement Program

This program was instigated to provide relief for people and communities in areas severely affected by the current drought. The program provided small grants to Crown reserve trusts, located in declared Drought Exceptional Circumstances areas, to engage local landholders, rural workers and other

residents in improvement and maintenance projects on Crown Reserves.

The program aimed to provide honorary direct or indirect payment for the participants and opportunity for diversion from the everyday stresses caused by the drought, whilst at the same time providing lasting and visible improvements to local community assets such as public halls, recreation grounds and showgrounds.

A special allocation of \$1 million was made from the Public Reserves Management Fund, with a limit of \$10,000 per project and an emphasis on labour remuneration. (see Appendix 14 for details of grants) Encouragement was given to use the grants as leverage to attract additional funds from other sources.

Reserve trusts have undertaken the responsibility of organising and supervising the projects submitted, and providing short reports on completion.

The program was initiated in the Central Region of the Crown Lands Division, where the effects of drought and the impacts on the health, well-being and financial plight of rural landholders and workers were very evident.

The Office of Rural Affairs was also actively involved in development of the program, with a particular interest in value-adding by identifying supplementary funding sources and assisting trusts in their governance ability.

Applications received from the drought declared areas of the state exceeded available funds.

The applications have been reviewed and submitted for the Minister's approval, with emphasis given to small communities, community trusts and high labour component projects.

Most of the applications and recommended projects came from

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the central and southern inland regions of the state, and the far west (where there are fewer community trusts). They included projects such as painting, repair and replacement of deteriorated sections of buildings, drainage and water supplies, fencing, removal of rubbish, tree planting, showground improvements, provision of disabled access and sun shelters and many others.

## Crown land bushfire management

Lands has a statutory responsibility under the *Crown Lands Act 1989* for bushfire protection on land under its control.

In the past year fire trails and asset protection zones have been maintained and constructed by Lands to reduce potential property losses and damage to the environment from wild fire.

With the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service Division and the Rural Fire Service, Lands has also undertaken significant fire trail and hazard reduction works on Crown land.

In cooperation with Rural Fire Service, Crown Lands Division has developed a program to record all fire trails on Crown land. The majority of fire trails on Crown land have been inspected and programs put in place to bring them up to the accepted standard.

## Western Lands Legal Road Network

The *Western Lands Act 1989* includes provisions for the formal establishment of a legal road and access network for the Western Division. The project aims to:

- legalise existing road access network
- provide surety of access for the public to cities, towns and villages and places of significant public interest

- eliminate public liability concerns for landholders
- control access through landholdings.

The project involves definition and dedication of in excess of 20,000 km of road and creation of easements to properties where road frontage does not exist.

## Future focus

Based on assessment and evaluation of the NSW Government's State Plan, Lands' reform agenda, Corporate Plan and Results and Services Plan, Crown Lands Division's strategic objectives for 2007/08 are:

- create opportunities for economic growth by:
  - establishing agreed business model
  - developing Crown land, where appropriate, for commercial purposes by the private sector for public benefit
  - improving economic performance
- delivering better services by:
  - maintaining and investing in Crown land infrastructure
  - achieving better environmental outcomes for natural resources on Crown lands
  - providing better access to, and use of crown lands for broader community benefit
  - undertaking targeted review of business administration process to improve service delivery
- building the organisation and its networks by:
  - establishing and maintaining collaboration with key stakeholders and partners

- delivering business objectives through a Project Management discipline
- building technical capacity to deliver business objectives
- developing staff capacity to meet the needs of the organisation.