

The Director General's Foreword

This Report showcases our commitment to the development of knowledge resources and extended performance reporting, with the publication of the first Intellectual Capital Statement for the Department of Lands. We sought to identify, value and demonstrate the Knowledge Capital within the Department to ensure the sustainability of the Departments' services to the community.

The Department of Lands is the steward for land and property information, spatial information and the Crown lands of NSW. We are accountable for the policy and strategic development of these areas. We take seriously our role as trustee for the current and future generations, the management and care of the Crown Land estate, the information relating to the titling, valuation, surveying and mapping of land and property and the cadastral and spatial data infrastructure for NSW. Through our soil and environment services we undertake important conservation and management of our natural resources.

We focus on people, programs and performance of the Department to contribute to and build an organisation to enhance the social, economic and environmental sustainability of NSW, its people, communities and future.

We are striving for the triple bottom line outcomes - economic, environmental and social and will seek to achieve a quadruple bottom line where capacity building and organisational knowledge, staff health and development are equally valued.

Land Property Information Division (LPI) continued to focus on the development of online service delivery to clients.

LPI is progressing a national approach to electronic conveyancing and is working closely with Victoria and the other State and Territory jurisdictions to implement a national solution. Late in 2004 Lands entered into an agreement with its counterpart in Victoria on the principles to be applied in developing a roadmap to a National Electronic Conveyancing System.

The Water Access Licence Register (WAL) commenced in July 2004 and provides for the registration of transactions affecting a Water Access Licence. The Register will eventually hold all Water Access Licences issued in NSW.

The WAL Register currently holds over 9000 licences and is continually expanding with the receipt of new licence data from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

In May 2005 LPI commenced the creation a Single Land Cadastre. This follows the signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Lands and Sydney Water Corporation to combine the cadastres of both organisations into a single authoritative cadastral dataset.

The Emergency Information Co-ordination Unit (EICU) established the largest spatial data library ever assembled for emergency management purposes in Australia. The NSW Spatial Information Library for Emergency Management and Critical Infrastructure enables spatial information to be shared amongst and delivered to emergency services organisations and the State Emergency Operations Committee.

The Land Valuation program was completed successfully, with 47 local council areas across the State revalued by valuation contractors, resulting in the issue of 648,731 general notices of valuation to property owners in these local government areas.

Crown Lands Division responding to customer feedback and government service delivery objectives, embarked on an extensive external review of Crown land management. In response to the findings of that review, the Government introduced important changes to the management of Crown land with effect from 1 July 2004 through the *Crown Land Legislation Amendment (Budget) Act 2004* which amends the *Crown Lands Act 1989* and the *Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989*.

The purpose of the reforms is to streamline administration and to achieve a fair and equitable return on the Crown land assets of the State. These reforms also provide an opportunity for perpetual leaseholders to make an application to convert their leases to freehold, subject to certain conditions.

The reforms will affect approximately 11,000 Perpetual Leases, ranging from small suburban blocks to large agricultural leases with significant environmental values, as well as a complex Crown road system, which includes approximately 45,000 roads covered by Enclosure Permits.

Soil Services Division continued its very important work, particularly in rural NSW and achieved recognition for the organisation's skills and commitment to regional communities in winning two major construction awards for environmental excellence for construction and project management of the Tingha Sewerage Scheme pond system in North-Western NSW. The Civil Contractor Federation, "Case" Earth Awards category 1 - Environmental Excellence (project value up to 2 million) and the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation Sustainable Construction Award were won for this project at a former derelict tin mining site.

The Office of Rural Affairs continued to work with the community and with other government agencies to identify issues and provide advice and assistance on matters impacting on rural communities. The Office of Rural Affairs reinforces a focus on the social, economic and environmental well being and prosperity of the rural areas of NSW, its people, communities and future.

The year has been one of consolidation and significant achievement for Lands and we will continue to respond to the challenges of the future through innovation, sharing our knowledge and leading by example to build sustainable outcomes for the people of NSW.

Finally, I would like to thank the skilled and dedicated management and staff for their continued commitment and contribution to quality client service. The Department of Lands could not sustain its high levels of service and commitment to the community of New South Wales without its dedicated, experienced staff.

I look forward to the challenging and rewarding year we have ahead of us.



Warwick Watkins
Director General
Registrar General
Surveyor General

Department of Lands

Level 3, 1 Prince Albert Road
Queens Square
Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 15
Sydney NSW 2001

T: 61 2 9228 6666
F: 61 2 9236 7632
E: feedback@lands.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.lands.nsw.gov.au