



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Since documenting the first state records under the Office of the Surveyor General in 1788, the Department of Lands has played a pivotal role in the identification, allocation, use and management of public land in New South Wales.

The current formation of Lands was created in 2003, incorporating:

- Three business operational divisions - Land and Property Information, Crown Lands and Soil Conservation Service
- The Office of Rural Affairs
- Internal corporate service areas including Finance and Corporate Support, People and Performance Development Group, Legal Services, Corporate Governance, Information Communication and Technology, Communication Solutions Group, and Native Title, Aboriginal Land Claims and Status Branch.

Lands also provides administrative support to the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information, and the Geographical Names Board.

Land and Property Information Division

Land and Property Information (LPI) is a self-funded valuation, titling, spatial information and surveying service which aims to provide comprehensive, accurate and independent information about land ownership in NSW.

LPI is the leading and definitive source of land information, spatial data and property ownership, which underpins a vibrant and robust NSW property market.

Crown Lands Division

The total area of New South Wales is almost 80 million hectares, half of which is Crown land.

The Crown Lands Division is responsible for the sustainable management of 12.7 million hectares of Crown land. From its 10 state parks, to its walking trails, public reserves, caravan parks and allocated land for varied community and business purposes, such as schools, hospitals and ports.

Crown Lands Division is dedicated to optimising environmental, economic and social outcomes for the benefit of the people of NSW.

Soil Conservation Service Division

Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is a specialist earthworks and environmental consultancy business which is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of NSW's natural soil resources. SCS is a leader in soil and water testing, rehabilitation, erosion and sediment control and revegetation programs. Its efforts ensure the continued sustainable management of NSW land.

Office of Rural Affairs

The Office of Rural Affairs works with rural communities to harness economic, social and environmental opportunities for country NSW, ensuring they have a powerful voice and are in control of their own evolution.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide quality, timely and reliable geospatial information, and land management products and services based on client needs.

OUR VALUES

Customer Service

We are committed to identifying customer needs and providing excellent products and services to clients in all locations.

Accountability

We provide our services in accordance with government and community expectations and manage government finances with strict probity to achieve value for money.

Innovation

We seek to develop innovative strategies and solutions to provide customer services and meet government needs.

Respect

We treat all people with dignity, respect and fairness, acknowledging the different value systems which exist within our multicultural society.

Integrity

We behave with integrity and in the public interest when using departmental resources, managing business and personal information and conducting business transactions.

Teamwork

We encourage a team approach to work, learning and problem solving.

Leadership

We are committed to providing leadership to the community and the public sector in areas of geospatial information and land management, and at all levels across the organisation.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Promote the development and adoption of a comprehensive spatial data infrastructure and a 'one land cadastre' policy across New South Wales.

Promote our expertise in soil, water and environmental conservation for the benefit of publicly and privately held lands.

Engaging in legislative and business reform to enhance the stewardship and development of Crown lands in New South Wales.

Implement innovative business solutions, which promote and encourage the effective and efficient management of public and private resources.

Encourage strategic partnerships and alliances across the public and private sectors.

Review internal processes with the view to improving productivity and capturing explicit organisational knowledge.

Engage information technology and communication solutions that deliver improved, customer-focused service delivery options.

Create a 'learning organisation' environment, which supports and encourages the development of knowledge and skills.

The provision of efficient, effective and appropriate, quality products and services to the people of New South Wales.

Articulate and demonstrate the public value created by the Department of Lands.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1787** – The office of the Surveyor General was established in England with Augustus Alt appointed as Surveyor of Lands.
- 1834** – The survey of the colony was finally complete and a map of 19 counties was produced.
- 1856** – Christopher Rolleston was appointed as the first NSW Registrar General.
- 1859** – The Department of Lands was established.
- 1975** – The Department of Lands was reformed to comprise the Crown Lands Office, Registrar General, the Western Lands Commission, and the Central Mapping Authority. Land registration was the responsibility of the Registrar General's Office with land management undertaken by the Crown Lands Office.
- 1981** – The Department of Lands was amalgamated with the Department of Local Government to form the Department of Local Government and Lands.
- 1984** – The Department of Lands was re-established.
- 1986** – The Registrar General's Office was removed from the Department of Lands and placed under the Attorney General's Department.
- 1988** – The Department of Lands consisted of the Crown Lands Office, Central Mapping Authority, Western Lands Commission, State Land Information Council, and the Corporate Services Division.
- 1991** – The Department of Lands was abolished and along with Soil Conservation Services, the Lands Titles Office and the Valuer General's Department became the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- 1995** – The Department of Conservation and Land Management was abolished and along with the Department of Water Resources and the Water Services Policy Division were amalgamated to form the Department of Land and Water Conservation.
- 1997** – The Valuer General's Office was established as a separate Department.
- 1998** – The Department of Land and Water Conservation consisted of the Land Titles Office, Soil Services, Land NSW and State Water.
- 1999** – The Land Titles Office was transferred to the Department of Information Technology and Management, the State Valuation Office was transferred to the Department of Public Works and Services.
- 2003** – The Department of Land and Water Conservation was abolished and the Department of Lands re-established as we now know it.
- 2006** – The Department of Lands celebrates 150 years since the appointment of first NSW Registrar General – Christopher Rolleston in 1856.