

In 2008/09 Lands continued to progress business objectives across all divisions, delivering on our service commitment to government, customers and the community. This report outlines Lands' achievements as measured by our corporate goals and the priorities of the NSW State Plan, including:

- encouraging people to enjoy our wonderful Crown land reserves, holiday parks and walking tracks through ongoing maintenance and enhancements
 - promoting community volunteering through a reserve trust board membership campaign and sponsoring community awards
 - supporting healthy living with the many recreational and sporting facilities on Crown land
 - continuing to raise the quality of customer service
 - better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways.
- This year Lands continued to invest in improving land information systems, increasing investment and recreational opportunities on Crown land and developing and enhancing electronic service delivery capabilities.
- Highlights of the year included:
- developing a spatial view of planning data including local, regional and state environmental planning instruments
 - agreement with all states on developing a National Electronic Conveyancing System and a timetable for delivery
- all online services for ePlan customers now delivered through an ePlan portal within the Spatial Information eXchange (SIX)
 - legislation on parallel leasing of Crown land to enable the Silverton Wind Farm, an infrastructure project of state importance
 - start of a major business reform project to re-engineer Crown Lands division as a lean property management organisation
 - the Office of Biofuels was incorporated into Lands on 1 December 2008. In 2008/09 1.32 billion litres of E10 was sold in NSW and E10 now makes up more than 20% of all petrol sold.
 - Lands has approved over 70 applications under the NSW Government's \$85m Building The Country Package for refurbishing country halls, delivering high speed broadband and building websites to promote country towns
 - a Cabinet-approved business plan for the Soil Conservation Service placed the division on a sound path to future success.

Digital delivery of property information services

Lands continues to invest in improving land information systems and building on its electronic service delivery capability.

We have been working with industry groups and other jurisdictions to develop and move towards implementation of a National Electronic Conveyancing System (NECS). A single national electronic conveyancing system will allow consumers across Australia to benefit from one system to settle property transactions.

Under agreements ratified through the Council of Australian Governments, a timetable for the introduction of the NECS by the end of 2011 is in place.

Lands is working towards the requirements of a national conveyancing system and undertaking the NECS Readiness Program to prepare and implement business practices, operational systems, legislation and stakeholder communication.

The Common Spatial Information Initiative (CS2i) is the result of collaboration across NSW state government agencies and private industry to provide common ebusiness functions that will enable customers to access spatial and related information online.

The NSW Spatial Council coordinates policy and strategic direction through the CS2i framework and has endorsed the development of a NSW government spatial inventory, formation of spatial information working groups to support development of key programs and policy objectives and adoption of eight NSW spatial strategic initiatives as projects to monitor and steward.

Strategic projects, including the development of a NSW spatial imagery strategy and the NSW Addressing Reform Project, are also being undertaken within the CS2i.

The long-term Vision 2013 strategy is the workforce planning process that provides Land and Property Information division with the framework to meet current and future business and staffing needs.

Since 2003/04, around 120 graduate and trainee positions have been filled across the division and in corporate service areas, with 33 graduates and trainees recruited this year.

Lands intends to continue the graduate and trainee program over the coming years to guarantee the capacity to replace experienced staff as they retire.

Sustainable management of Crown land

Lands has embarked on a major business reform project to re-engineer the Crown Lands portfolio as a lean property management organisation that is able to deliver on government priorities and deploy resources to optimise management of these important assets.

This is supported by specific projects to improve information management and business outcomes in areas ranging from creating legal title over and valuing Crown reserves to the implementation of a new pricing model for domestic waterfront licences.

Lands works in partnership with local government and the private sector to revitalise important regional centres. These projects seek to upgrade infrastructure for recreation and tourism, while also preserving essential maritime uses and providing a greater variety of services for the general public.

These partnerships also provide opportunities for economic growth to achieve stronger regional economies as directed in the State Plan.



Fairy Bower Falls, NSW South Coast.

Despite challenging economic times, solid progress is being achieved in projects such as partnering with council to redevelop the Gosford CBD, a foreshore master plan for Port Stephens jointly-developed with council, a MoU with Wagga Wagga City Council to develop Crown land along the Murrumbidgee River and the development of a world class marina and recreational boating facilities at Boyds Bay, Tweed Heads.

Lands established a precedent for Australian property law by putting in place the concept of a 'parallel lease' over Crown land to enable development of what will be Australia's largest wind farm at Silverton in the Western Division.

The NSW Government has approved the first stage of the project which is expected to create more than 800 construction and operational jobs in the region.

The first stage will deliver 282 wind turbines and the second stage will add a further 316 turbines and 305 kilometre of powerlines, subject to further environmental assessment and approval.

Equally as important is the division's role in protecting the environment and our heritage. This year, Lands gazetted new state parks at Cronulla and Broken Hill (the Living Desert Reserve), developed an assessment protocol for environmental management of travelling stock reserves and established three new surfing reserves.

Caring for the earth

The NSW Cabinet approved a new business plan for the Soil Conservation Service which will ensure a sound and secure future for this well-respected bush icon.

It was a significant achievement for the division and one which followed a long period of negotiation with Treasury over future operations.

Approval of the plan provides a clear mandate for the SCS to now progress a number of business plan objectives to improve the division's financial performance.

With completion of the NSW Soils Framework 'Looking Forward Acting Now' report, signed-off by the NSW Natural Resources Cluster Group, the NSW State Plan was amended to acknowledge the report and set a timeframe for the development of a NSW Soils Strategy.

SCS enjoyed another solid year of business performance, particularly in the Consult operation which secured preferred supplier service agreements with government agency clients including RTA, Transgrid and DDM (Defence), as well as a number of catchment management authorities.

Supporting regional communities

Lands provides administrative support for the Regional Communities Consultative Council (RCCC) by bringing government and communities together to develop sustainable

economic, social and environmental outcomes in country NSW.

Under the \$85m Building The Country Package, Lands reviews applications for funding of projects designed to deliver community infrastructure and support for business and tourism. To date, over 70 grants have been allocated for refurbishing country halls, delivering high speed broadband and building websites to promote country towns.

In another initiative, decommissioned Lands computers are distributed to community technology centres, historical societies, small country museums, environmental groups and neighbourhood centres in regional NSW.

Developing alternative fuels

The Office of Biofuels was incorporated into Lands in December 2008 to continue its work in implementing the NSW Government biofuels mandate.

Within 15 months of introduction of the mandate, one billion litres of ethanol-blend petrol had been sold in NSW.

During the year under review, the NSW Government announced the mandate would triple from two to six per cent by January 2011.

Government has also mandated a 10 per cent ethanol blend in all regular grade unleaded petrol by 1 July 2011 and the introduction a biodiesel mandate.

Lands is developing a 10-year biofuels strategy to encourage the development of second-generation technologies and feedstocks, which will enable the sustainable production of much greater volumes of biofuels.

Financial performance

Lands had a positive budget result for 2008/09, with a net surplus for the year of \$25m. This result was better than anticipated, as we were originally budgeting for a surplus of \$15m. Lands will return \$16.3m back to Government in the form of taxes and dividends.

Revenues and State budget funding totalled \$297m, of which \$272m was spent on delivering our services. This improved result is a combination of higher revenues and lower expenditures.

Lands has continued to deliver positive financial returns to the NSW Consolidated Fund in the face of pressures from the economic downturn. LPI in particular felt the affect of downturns in revenue from a slowdown in plan registrations and title information requests. This was partially offset by a government mini budget initiative of a doubling of title transfer fees, as well as tight controls over expenditures within LPI in response to the downturn in activity.

In addition Lands delivered increased returns required from the mini budget in November

2008 for road closures and perpetual lease conversions. Whilst these Government targets were met by Lands, these increases are reflected in revenues within CLE and LDWA, rather than being reported in Lands.

For further information see Our Funding on page 12, Financial Snapshot on page 5 or our Financial Statements on page 53.

Moving forward

Lands is maintaining its commitment to online delivery of property services and will reach further milestones in the next few years. As ever, customer needs and requirements will be our primary focus in designing our products, services and delivery channels.

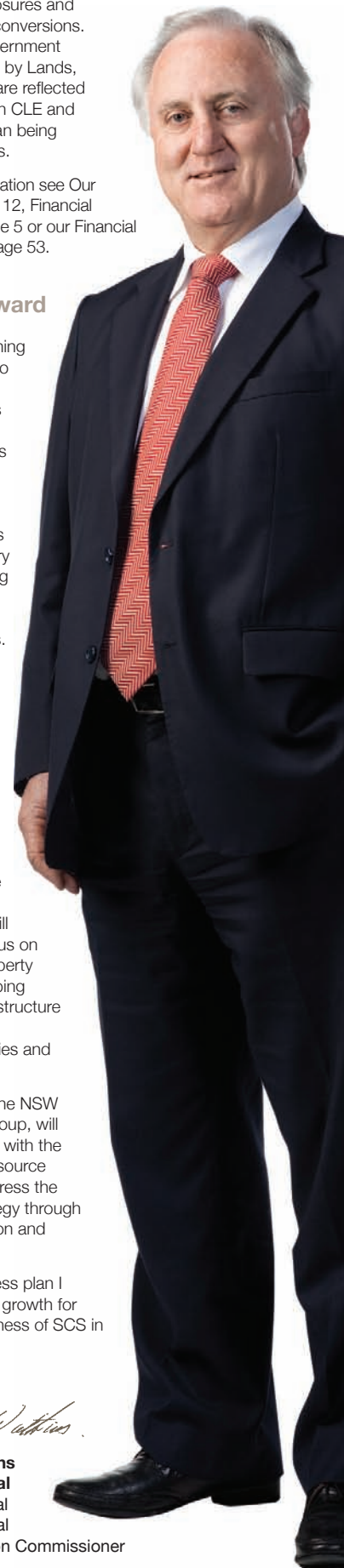
In managing the Crown lands portfolio the development of function-based transaction centres will result in substantial improvement in customer service and operational efficiency. This will allow greater focus on our role as a property manager developing Crown land infrastructure for the benefit of regional economies and communities.

Lands, through the NSW Soils Working Group, will continue to work with the state's natural resource agencies to progress the NSW Soils Strategy through to public exhibition and adoption.

Under the business plan I anticipate sound growth for the Consult business of SCS in regional NSW.



Warwick Watkins
Director General
Surveyor General
Registrar General
Soil Conservation Commissioner



SURVEYOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Strengthening of the state survey control network continued this year with LPI rolling out a state-wide network of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) to provide NSW with world's best practice survey infrastructure.

The new CORS network, known as NSWNet, extends the GNSS data services already provided by LPI through SydNet and MetroNet, which currently operate 11 CORS. It will be supported by the existing physical survey control network, which consists of trigonometrical stations and permanent survey marks.

Over the next four years, 55 additional CORS will be established across NSW, greatly increasing the accuracy of the state's survey control network.

In my role as Surveyor General I hold the statutory positions of President of BOSSI and Chair of the Geographical Names Board (GNB).

BOSSI was active in its role of promoting professional development and standards. It is exploring additional pathways to registration involving assistance from the Institution of Surveyors NSW (ISNSW), the Association

of Consulting Surveyors (ACS) and Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS). These agencies have instituted training programs to assist candidate surveyors achieve registration.

The GNB continued to maintain the integrity of the state's geographical naming process and provide a valuable service to Australia Post, map publishers and the community.

Detailed reports from the GNB are contained in this publication.

Warwick Watkins
Director General
Surveyor General
Registrar General
Soil Conservation Commissioner



REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT

As the Registrar General my role is to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the register of land ownership in NSW.

The activities of this office are integral to the process and confidence in the property market.

The economic situation continued to affect the volume of transactions at LPI but this did not slow progress in broadening online service delivery or improvements in customer service.

A new security certificate of title was launched on 1 June 2009, featuring new and replacement security features to support the identification of an authentic certificates.

As detailed elsewhere in this report, Lands is making tremendous progress towards national e-conveyancing and electronic delivery of our state-based property services.

Over the next year we will continue to invest in key development programs including the National Electronic Conveyancing System (NECS), digitisation of titling records, the electronic lodgment of plans, integrating Crown land into the electronic titling system and the conservation and digitisation of historical plans and aerial photography.

Warwick Watkins
Director General
Surveyor General
Registrar General
Soil Conservation Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Lands has the lead environmental agency role in developing a NSW Soils Strategy and action plan to address the soil targets established under the NSW State Plan.

This followed the earlier completion of the NSW Soils Framework 'Looking Forward Acting Now' report.

We are working with the NSW Soils Working Group to progress the soils strategy through to public exhibition and adoption in the next year.

On the business front, the Soil Conservation Service business plan provides the framework to ensure the viability of the division into the future with strategies to grow the consulting business and recruit skilled staff.

Warwick Watkins
Director General
Surveyor General
Registrar General
Soil Conservation Commissioner



Fitzroy Falls, NSW South Coast.