



- 1786** 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.
- 1844** William Carter appointed as the first Registrar General.
- 1856** The Office of the Registrar General re-established after being abolished in 1849. Christopher Rolleston appointed as Registrar General.

- 1859** The Department of Lands was first 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.

## Who we are

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
  - 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.



**1991** The Department of Lands (including the Land Information Centre), Soil Conservation Service, the Lands Titles Office and the Valuer General's Department were transferred to 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 of contribution and achievement in land information and management.

**2007** Western Lands administration was transferred from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Lands.

### 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 43.7 million hectares of Crown land. From its 11 state parks, public reserves, walking trails and caravan parks to 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 land assessment, erosion and sediment control, degraded site rehabilitation 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 customers

Lands is responsible to the people of NSW for the care and management of public land and land information systems. Other key stakeholders include the property conveyancing industry, land use planning and development sector, farming and grazing property owners, government agencies at state, local and federal levels, and regional community bodies.