



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Regional Development
Vice President of the Executive Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council
Level 34

Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit the NSW Department of Lands Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2008 for your information and presentation to Parliament.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Public Finance & Audit Act 1983*.

This publication includes reports from all administrative areas of Lands, the Office of Rural Affairs, Geographical Names Board and the annual report for the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information of NSW.

I commend this report to you.

Yours sincerely,

Warwick Watkins
Director General
Surveyor General
Registrar General
Soil Conservation Commissioner



“ Providing quality, timely & reliable geospatial information & land management products & services based on client needs ”

HIGHLIGHTS 2007/08

- p37** The LPI Business Continuity Plan was tested eight times, proving the capacity to restore top priority business functions within two hours of a disaster.
- p39** LPI's new digital aerial camera assisted emergency responses to flooding around the state, the rescue of the grounded ocean carrier Pasha Bulker and planning for the APEC economic summit.
- p41** Digitalisation of the earliest land registers in NSW was completed, with a contents index made available on DVD.
- p52** Legislative changes will allow a special purpose lease to the proposed Silverton Wind Farm which has the potential to supply clean, renewable energy to 400,000 homes.
- p52** Five new state parks were created for environmental protection and public enjoyment.
- p53** Crown Lands new caravan and camping website received over 46,000 hits during its first three months.
- p64** Completion of the NSW Soils Framework policy; a first step in developing a contemporary soils policy.
- p71** The establishment of a Rural and Regional Taskforce to provide advice on issues affecting rural and regional communities.





ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Department of Lands (Lands) is one of the oldest departments in Australia's history – dating back over 150 years. During that time, the configuration of Lands has changed with new government priorities. As a result, many of Lands' divisions have, at one stage or another, existed as separate business units within various departments, each with quite specific strategic objectives.

Lands, in its current formation, was established in 2003 and whilst a corporate plan was prepared for 2004-2007, many of the divisions had pre-existing long-range business plans.

Therefore, performance highlights against Lands' corporate strategic objectives are reported in the front section of this report, from page 14 to 17. Divisional operational reports which provide detailed performance outcomes against specific objectives are also included starting with Land and Property Information on page 35 Crown Lands on page 49, Soil Conservation Service on page 61 and the Office of Rural Affairs on page 67.

As Lands provides administrative support to the Geographical Names Board and the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information, their annual reports are included as separate sections.

ABOUT LANDS

Lands embodies a long history of integrity in land information systems, knowledge and experience in soil conservation and responsible land management.

Since documenting the first state land records, Lands has continued as the custodian of land information in NSW. Today, with new technologies and greater expertise in the field, Lands is a world leader in land and spatial information management with a commitment to innovative products and services.

Our mission

As custodian for land and property information and services, spatial information and the Crown lands of New South Wales, Lands serves current and future generations through innovative management, sustainable land allocation and by working in partnership with other arms of government, our business clients and the community.

Our vision

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 excellent 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.

Focus

Our success is measured through the Balanced Scoreboard; an approach that addresses customer and community needs, sound financial management, continuous performance improvement and building a knowledge organisation.

Who we are

Since 1856, Lands has defined the dimensions and tenure of land as a fundamental basis of the market economy.

Today, we continue to meet the needs of business and communities.

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, Corporate People and Performance 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, the Geographical Names Board, the Festival Development Corporation and various community trusts.

Land and Property Information Division

Land and Property Information (LPI) is the definitive source of spatial information for NSW, including property definition, ownership and valuation data, which underpins a vibrant property market and government initiatives for improved commercial and environmental outcomes.

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 15 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 an environmental consultancy business specialising in environmental protection, rehabilitation and land management

SCS offers a complete range of professional and technical services in land rehabilitation, specialist earthworks, erosion and sediment control, project management, soil and water testing, revegetation techniques and the sustainable management of farm water supplies.

SCS'S 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.

Strategic goals

Promote the development and adoption of a comprehensive spatial data infrastructure and 'one land cadastre' across NSW.

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

Engage in legislative and business reform to enhance the management of Crown lands in NSW.

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.

Provide efficient, effective and appropriate quality products and services to the people of NSW.

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

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