From the Minister

The Hon. Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs

Imagine if land was not provided for schools, hospitals, recreation, housing developments or the 27 ports which service the fishing and boating industries in NSW. The NSW Government provides the land for these essential public uses.

The Department of Lands (Lands) is responsible for the management and allocation of Crown land across NSW. The government and Lands ensure there is land available for the social, economic and environmental benefit of the people of NSW.

Reserved for you

Crown reserved land has been set aside for public use, both now and in the future, for a variety of purposes. Many Crown reserves are managed under trust by local councils or community trust boards.

Our History

The Crown reserves system stands the test of time as the oldest and most diverse land management system in NSW, dating back to 1825 when lands were first set aside by the Crown for specific public purposes such as infrastructure, schools, hospitals, housing, parks and forests.

In the 1850s, Crown reserves further evolved in recognition of the basic need for the community to access open spaces for tourism and leisure activities.

Now, Crown reserves are more than just open spaces and parks. Anyone who has enjoyed using a showground, sporting field, public park, waterway, walking trail, caravan park, picnic spot, or community hall has, more than likely, enjoyed using a Crown reserve.

Crown reserves also include areas underwater, e.g. in river beds, lakes, ports and up to three nautical miles out to sea.

Anyone who has enjoyed using a showground, sporting field, public park, waterway, walking trail, caravan park, picnic spot or community hall has, more than likely, enjoyed using a Crown reserve.
Regional Crown reserves have been established to ensure Crown land management remains relevant to modern needs and continues to fulfil our commitment to making land available for the people of NSW.

It is this commitment that ensures the NSW Government can provide adequate parks, and community facilities, while preserving culturally significant areas and providing reserved land to accommodate the expansion of urban areas and essential infrastructure such as roads.

Crown reserves are managed in a sustainable way under the principles of the *Crown Land Act 1989* which ensures that:

- enjoyment of Crown land is encouraged
- natural resources are sustainably managed and the environment is protected for future generations
- land is used for multiple purposes
- Crown land is occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State and its people.

Responsible Land Management

Currently, Lands manages more than 30,000 Crown reserves across NSW, or about 2.5 million hectares, and we take our responsibility for this land seriously. These reserves are a part of the extensive Crown land estate that make up almost half of the state.

The NSW Government recognises that Crown reserves are a valuable part of our heritage and necessary for the future of NSW. Crown reserves are a finite resource, which must be managed responsibly for the environmental, social and economic needs of our community.

Lands works in partnership with councils, industry, neighbouring land holders, environmental and rural communities. By maintaining regional offices throughout the state with staff who have local understanding, Lands builds relationships and networks with community groups to deliver outcomes that meet the changing needs of our society.

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What are the benefits?

Regional Crown reserves have minimal impact on the day to day management of existing reserves, leases and licences but allow better distribution of funding throughout reserves to where it is needed most.

Regional Crown reserves allow for the sustainable management of the NSW environment, its natural resources and heritage, as well as rural and urban services to promote active public use, tourism opportunities and local and regional industries. It also allows Lands to strengthen our relationships with councils.

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Regional Crown Reserves

Regional Crown reserves have been established to ensure Crown land management remains relevant to the modern needs of local communities and continues to fulfil our commitment to making land available for the people of NSW.

To ensure the use and management of Crown land supports regional economies and public requirements, and to increase our capacity to direct resources where they are needed most, a program is in place to aggregate Crown land into larger units for planning and management purposes. Regional Crown reserves mean land can be assessed and managed in a holistic way, in consultation with the community, rather than in isolation.
Where do I get more information?

Visit www.lands.nsw.gov.au or call 13000 LANDS.