Purchasing Crown roads – access rights for recreational fishers

NSW Trade and Investment, Crown Lands, is streamlining the closure and disposal of Crown roads through internal process improvements and employing extra staff.

The purpose is to help clear the backlog of applications for road closures and the existing rights of applicants or objectors are not affected.

The time period for submissions has not been altered. After receiving submissions the time period for assessing them varies from case to case depending on the complexity of the submissions received and parties involved.

Where road closure applications may have an impact on recreational fishing the following process is followed.

1. Once a Crown road closure application is received and its status confirmed it is advertised in local print media. Adjoining land holders, relevant utility providers and other government agencies are notified.
2. From this date there are 28 days to lodge a submission.
3. Crown Lands commences a centralised referencing process with NSW Fisheries and other relevant government agencies to identify related issues including access requirements.
4. Crown Lands and Fisheries share information and spatial data where available.
5. After the 28 days, all submissions received are examined and a decision is made on the merits of each application.
6. Extensions of time can be sought by Fisheries where it is considered additional assessment is necessary or where negotiations with freehold land owners may be required regarding easements.
7. Possible outcomes of application include approval to close, approval to close with easement for access or refusal of application.

Crown Lands makes every effort to encourage parties to reach agreement though in some cases where this is not possible a decision is required to be made.

The program has run successfully for a number of years and Crown Lands is continuing to work with Fisheries to address the concerns of recreational fishers.

More information

Should you have any further queries about specific road closure applications or require additional information please contact the Crown Lands Roads Project Team on

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