

December 2021

Crown reserve management news Crown Land Managers

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment



Echo Point Lookout, Katoomba, Blue Mountains, NSW – Dharug and Gundungurra Country



Message from the Deputy Secretary, Crown Land

I hope everyone is travelling well as we come out of lockdown across NSW and have begun to enjoy the freedoms we are able to reclaim, including visiting places like the Blue Mountains, to take in the glorious views from the Crown reserve at Echo Point.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your commitment to managing Crown land through a rather challenging year and wish you all the very best for a well-earned break over Christmas. Keep well, stay safe and we look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Melanie Hawyes
Deputy Secretary, Crown Land

Roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions

The people of NSW can look forward to further easing of COVID-19 restrictions, due to come into effect once we reach the 95% double vaccination rate or on 15 December 2021. Visit the [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#) to view the latest rules.

Crown land 2031 update



The Crown Land Taskforce has been established by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the department) to provide oversight, advice and assistance to Crown Lands with the implementation of Crown land 2031 – State Strategic Plan. There are 9 members in the Crown Land Taskforce, including ex-officio members from the department, and external appointments. To find out more, visit our [website](#).

We are getting close to publishing our first 3-year action plan to support the implementation of Crown land 2031. A focus of the first plan will be the inclusion of pilot programs to trial new solutions and approaches that cover each of the 5 Crown land 2031 key priorities which are outlined [here](#).

Environmental sustainability at Boambee Reserve



Reflections Holiday Parks Mid-North Coast Operations Manager Alan Thomas (left), with Member for Coffs Harbour Gurmeh Singh MP at Boambee Creek Reserve

Visitors to Boambee Creek Reserve, just north of Sawtell on the Coffs Coast, are enjoying the water more than ever in the lead-up to summer, now that Reflections Holiday Parks has successfully completed beach nourishment works. The program of work to rejuvenate the foreshore was recently undertaken to combat the effects of cyclical erosion, which has affected the foreshore in recent years.

The beachfront at Boambee has been widened for enhanced recreational use. This has provided temporary coastal protection of important community infrastructure, including the access road boat ramp and multiple picnic shelters. This work has been essential in providing an interim increased defence while Reflections investigate what long-term protection strategies could look like. [Find out more.](#)

Community War Memorials Fund



Works at Woy Woy War Memorial. Image courtesy of Merril Jackson OAM

The Community War Memorials Fund awards grants of up to \$10,000 for the conservation, protection and repair of local war memorials. Organisations can apply to fund a range of war memorial conservation projects including condition assessments and specialist repair work. Applications for Round 2 close at **5.00pm AEST, Friday 11 February 2022**. [Find out more](#).

Reserve manager award finalists announced



Congratulations to the 8 finalists announced for the 2021 Crown Land Manager Awards. The finalists across the 2 award categories, held as part of the 2021 NSW/ACT Community Achievement Awards are:

Crown Land Manager Excellence Award:

- Byrangery Grass Reserve Land Manager
- Deep Water Land Manager Hall Committee of Glen Innes
- Glen Innes and District Historical Society Inc.
- Old Bega Hospital Reserve Land Manager

Crown Land Manager Individual Excellence Award:

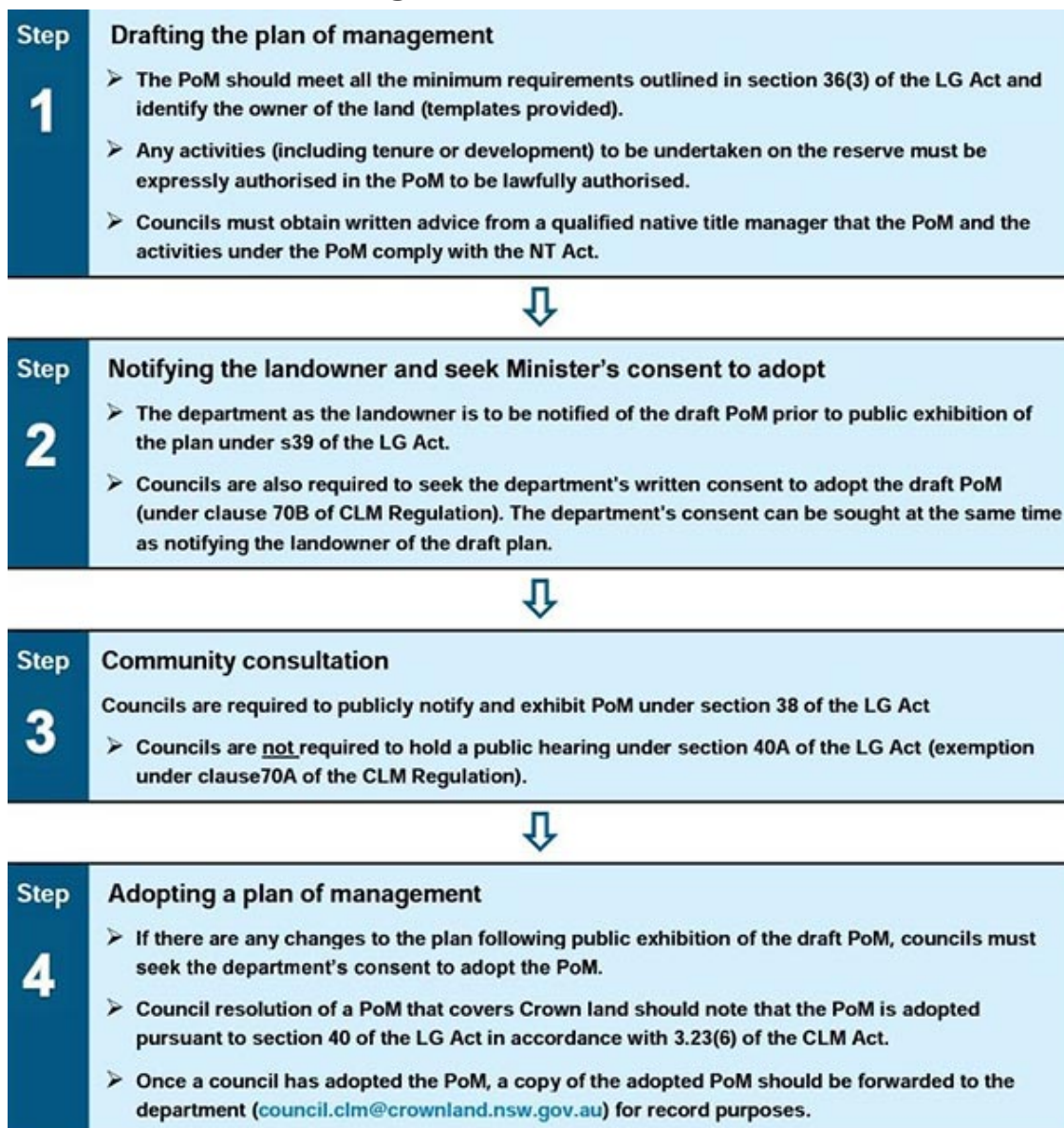
- Louise Jenkins of Cooma
- Patricia Jones of Bega
- Stephen Thatcher of Muswellbrook
- William West of Balmoral

As well as acknowledgment of their community work, award finalists are in-the-running to receive \$1,500 in prizes, as well as a \$750 accommodation voucher for Reflections Holiday Parks, when the final winners are announced. Find out more on the [Reserve Manager website](#).

Awards gala event

The awards gala presentation dinner will be held at the Fairmont Resort and Spa Blue Mountains on Friday 11 February 2022. View the highlights video on [Facebook](#) from the last event. To attend the event next February, please purchase tickets below:

Councils require Minister's consent before adopting final Plans of Management (PoM)



A reminder to all councils that Minister's written consent is required **before** council adopts their final Plans of Management (PoM) for Crown reserves.

The four-step process requires councils to refer to the department at:

- **Step 2: Before public notification and exhibition period – councils must notify the department as landowner.** A written notice form is required to be completed when submitting a PoM for assessment by Crown Lands, and a PoM must be submitted prior to a public exhibition.
- **Step 4: Before council resolution to adopt the final PoM – councils must seek Minister's consent to adopt the PoM.** This requires councils to provide information on any changes to the PoM and provide a summary of the submissions made by the community on the PoM.

For further information, refer to the revised [PoM Guideline for council Crown land managers](#). Once a PoM is approved by the Minister and adopted by the council, a copy of

it must be emailed to council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au and it should also be made available on the council's website.

Issuing of leases and licenses by councils pre PoM



Tathra Surf Life Saving Club, Tathra. Image: Destination NSW

Prior to the adoption of PoMs for Crown land, council Crown land managers can issue some leases and licences, in limited circumstances, as set out in clause 70(2) of the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018 (CLM Regulation).

The areas relating to leasing and licensing in s.3.22 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 are in effect 'turned off' if the lease or licence falls within clause 70(2)(a)-(f) of the CLM Regulation, and therefore provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) relating to leasing and licensing will not apply.

For example, clause 47 of the LG Act will not apply and council is not required to give public notice of the proposed lease or licence nor obtain the consent of the Minister administering the LG Act in the event of an objection.

Although s.3.22 is 'turned off' so far as the leasing or licensing are concerned, in all other respects s.3.22 continues to apply and council must manage the land as if it were community land under the LG Act. The only exceptions are where the Crown reserve is managed by council as devolved land under s.48 of the LG Act, or the Minister has consented to it being classified as operational land.

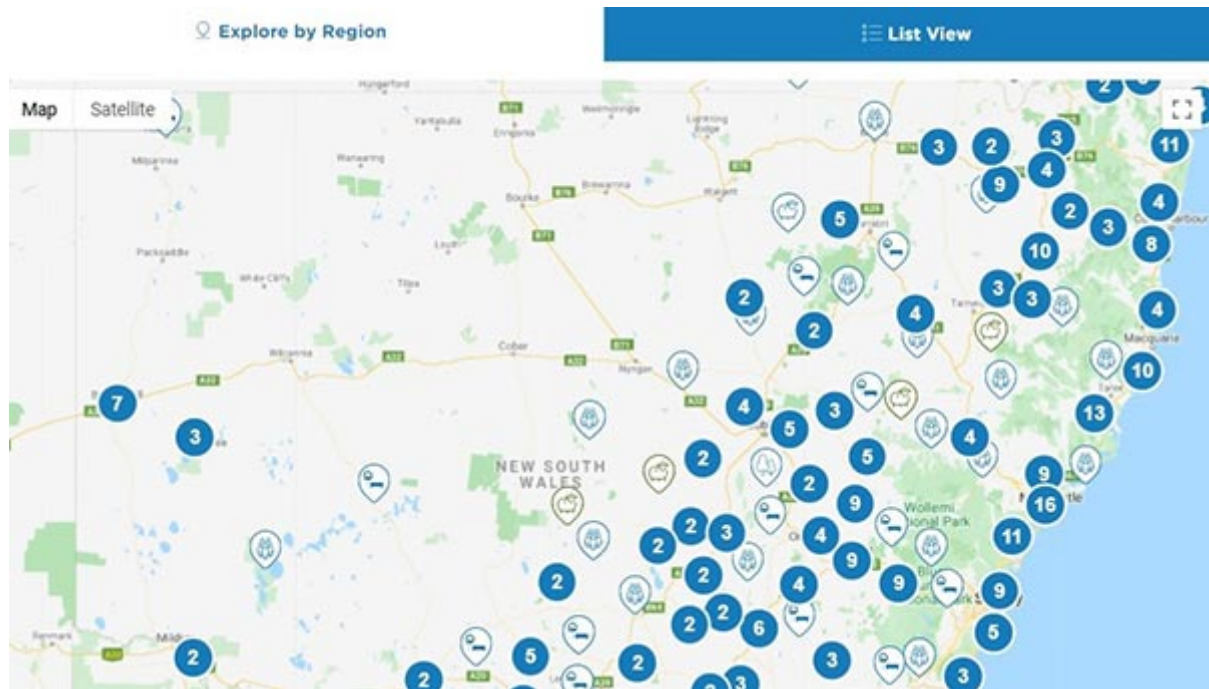
Councils must categorise the land and prepare a PoM as soon as possible. The nature and use of the reserve must not be changed pending the adoption of a PoM.

Clause 70 only applies until either:

- The council adopts its first PoM for the land for the purposes of s.3.23 of the CLM Act
- The land is classified as operational land with the Minister's consent under section 3.22 of the CLM Act.

You can view a summary of lease and licence options for council Crown land managers without a PoM in the [granting leases and licences on Crown reserves fact sheet](#).

Reserve directory to connect Crown land managers



Non-council Crown land managers looking to connect with others across NSW can access information on more than 400 Crown reserves using the [Reserve Directory](#). The reserve listings include information on available facilities, images and contact information. Crown land managers are encouraged to use the directory to share knowledge and build their community networks. New reserve listings and updates to current listings can be made via the [Reserve Manager Portal](#).

Native title webinar for Council Executives



Keanu Bates sharing Aboriginal art and culture on a guided tour through Mutawintji National Park, Outback NSW.

Image: Destination NSW

Thank you to everyone who joined the Introduction to Native title for Council Executives webinars in November. The sessions were well attended with more than 150 participants and provided an opportunity for senior council staff to learn about council responsibilities regarding native title rights and legislation. Crown Lands is reviewing feedback from the webinars which will inform its continued development of an improved native title training and education program for Crown land managers.

New guidelines for native title

Crown Lands has released [new guidelines](#) which have been developed to assist council General Managers and council staff in understanding native title requirements under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Native Title Act 1993.

Reducing tree risk at Bellingen Showground



Crown land manager Graziella Garrett and volunteer Ted Greenaway inspecting trees at Bellingen Showground

Crown land managers at Bellingen Showground have used the department's Risk Register, available on the [Reserve Manager Portal](#) to help manage dangerous trees. The tool enabled the introduction of new control measures, reducing the risk profile from 'medium' to 'low'. These include:

- conducting annual tree inspections
- maintaining regular arborist inspections
- managing trees in line with arborist advice
- ensuring all identified tree work is completed.

The department encourages all Crown land managers to use the Risk Register to help address safety issues on reserves. [Find out more about risk management and the Risk Register.](#)

Annual reporting insights

Thank you to all non-council Crown land managers who submitted their annual reports for the 2020-21 Financial Year (FY). The data is now being reviewed to identify opportunities

to enhance support. The below infographic outlines the most common uses of non-council managed Crown reserves identified from FY2020-21 annual reporting data.

Common uses of Crown reserves FY2020-21



OLG PoM funding reports reminder

Councils are reminded that their Crown Land PoM progress funding reports for the Office of Local Government (OLG) were due by 30 November 2021. Councils can still submit their progress report via councilcrownland@olg.nsw.gov.au.

An annual progress report is a requirement of the Plans of Management Funding Support Program that councils entered into with OLG. More information about this funding support program can be accessed via the OLG circular [here](#).

Share your stories

Sharing stories is a great way to learn from each other and recognise the hard work and dedication of reserve managers. If you would like to share your story, email us at reserves@crownland.nsw.gov.au.

Contact

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Non-council Crown land managers: reserves@crownland.nsw.gov.au

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