

# Crown reserve management news Crown land managers

Department of Planning and Environment



*Summer escape at the Bogey Hole Crown reserve, Newcastle*



## Message from the Group Deputy Secretary

Welcome to the first Crown land managers (CLM) newsletter for 2022.

I am mindful that many communities have been impacted by flooding along the east coast of NSW, particularly in the Northern Rivers region and in and around Greater Sydney. Crown Lands is monitoring the situation closely to respond to issues and provide direct support to those in need.

It is expected that many reserves in affected regions have been impacted by the current flooding emergency. CLMs are reminded to ensure the safety of all reserve board members, volunteers, employees and the general public during the current conditions. [Information](#) was sent to all CLMs last week to provide support and guidance during this extreme flooding situation. The [NSW Government website](#) also has information and services to help individuals, families, households and businesses affected by floods.

Several Crown land sites are being used as evacuation centres to support residents who have been displaced by the floods. Crown Lands' staff are available to support CLMs with any concerns regarding the management of reserves during these challenging times.

Since the new Ministry was announced in December, there have been several changes for the department, including a name change to the Department of Planning and Environment and a new Secretary, Mick Cassel. Crown Lands also has a new Minister, with the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP appointed as Minister for Lands and Water. As part of these changes the Secretary asked me to lead an expanded group of Crown Lands and Local Government. There are clear synergies in this new group in terms of our work in partnership with Crown land managers, including local councils, and we are well placed to deliver positive outcomes for communities across the state.

Take care and please stay safe.

**Melanie Hawyes**

**Group Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government**

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## Guidance for flood insurance claims



Photo by [Phillip Flores](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Many Crown reserves have been impacted by recent flooding events across NSW. Most non-council CLMs are covered by the Crown Lands' reserves insurance policy. To find out more about insurance cover and submitting a claim, view our [insurance webpage](#).

### Initial clean-up

Prior to submitting an insurance claim, initial clean up works can proceed as required to ensure the safety of anyone attending site. Take photos of the high-water marks on internal walls to show the depth of inundation prior to commencing clean up.

If an item is destroyed or completely unusable (like electrical equipment that has been submerged), simply take a photo and note the model number before disposing of it.

If any major demolition or make-safe works are urgently required, please [contact us](#) prior to proceeding.

## Volunteers recognised for service to Crown reserves



*Glenn Innes & District Historical Society and William West from Bribbaree Showground*

Volunteers from across NSW have been recognised for selfless efforts in supporting their communities by devoting their time to help manage local Crown reserves.

The winners of 2 awards for Crown reserve management were announced on 11 February 2022 at the Community Achievement Awards for Regional NSW/ACT.

Glen Innes & District Historical Society won the CLM Excellence Award for maintaining the heritage of its community since 1968, through the Land of the Beardies Museum History House Museum and Research Centre. Over the past 3 years, the Society and its 255 members have been repairing and refurbishing buildings, storage facilities and display areas. [View video profile on winner.](#)

Bribbaree Showground volunteer, Bill West, won the Individual Excellence in Crown Land Management Award for 39 years' service. Mr West joined the Bribbaree Showground Trust in 1982, became its Chairman in 1984, and its secretary/treasurer in 1997. Now 72, Mr West vows to continue supervising the showground, cleaning up after events and doing what he can to keep it pristine. [View video profile on winner.](#)

## \$15 million for Crown land upgrades



*Micalong Swamp, South Western NSW*

Successful applicants for the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) 2021–22 have been announced by the Minister for Lands and Water, Kevin Anderson MP.

The CRIF will support 257 projects totaling \$15.23 million this financial year. Details on the successful projects and a summary of funding allocations are available on the [Reserve Manager website](#). The funding provided will continue to benefit our community, boost our economy and contribute to the cultural, sporting and recreational life of our region.

The CRIF is a competitive grant program with applications assessed on merit. To find out more about the assessment criteria for the 2021-22 program, please view the [assessment and eligibility criteria checklist](#) (PDF 381kb).

Crown Lands provides a range of [guidance materials](#) to assist applicants with funding submissions. [Contact us](#) for more information.

## Majority of council-managed Crown reserves categorised



*Narromine Showground and Racecourse*

Last year saw a significant increase in councils' engagement in the management of Crown land, with 87% of Crown reserves categorised and/or classified in accordance with

Division 3.4 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*. This means 5,042 of the total 6,469 Crown reserves managed by councils have been categorised.

There was also a 37% increase in the total number of councils (68) submitting at least one draft plan of management (PoM) last year. Coolamon, Narromine and Lismore councils have completed PoM for all reserves they manage, with 57 councils still to submit a draft PoM. 36 councils have finalised and adopted PoM, covering a total of 254 reserves.

For information on the classification, categorisation and PoM process, go to the [Council Crown land manager web page](#). For any queries and assistance with the process, please email [council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au).

## Update on issuing leases and licences for councils

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

The updated [fact sheet for granting leases and licences on Crown reserves](#) (PDF 419kb) includes information on the granting of tenures for secondary interests and short-term licences, community engagement requirements and the effect of granting a lease or licence without an adopted PoM.

## 2021 NSW Tourism Awards - Crown land winners



*L-R: The Toney family love sharing the Seal Rocks experience with others (Reflections Holiday Parks Seal Rocks).*

[Winners of the 2021 NSW Tourism Awards](#) were announced on 3 February 2022 with awards presented to several CLMs, lessees, licensees and partners with tourism businesses. The many accolades demonstrate the valuable role that Crown land plays in supporting the NSW visitor economy and recognise the outstanding contribution of our partners in delivering high quality and diverse experiences.

All 3 awards in the 'Caravan and Holiday Parks' category were won by parks operating on Crown land, with a bronze to Reflections Holiday Parks Seal Rocks, a silver to Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park and Ingenia Holidays South West Rocks taking top honours. Riverside Holiday Resort in Urunga won gold for 'Self-Contained Accommodation' and was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail in Port Macquarie also won gold for 'Cultural Tourism' and silver in the 'Tourist Attraction' categories. Local government partners MidCoast Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and the Central Coast Council were all

recognised in the 'Local Government Award for Tourism', with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council winning the Judges' 'Tourism Star Award'.

## Crown Lands Councillor induction session

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is presenting a 12-week series of 'Hit the Ground Running' webinars as part of its Councillor inductions, which kicked off in February and will continue through to end of April 2022. Crown Lands will deliver a two-hour session on **Saturday 9 April, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm**, which will focus on Crown land management, Aboriginal land rights and native title. The webinars are open to council staff as well as Councillors. Information on how to register can be found [here](#).

## Reminders for Council CLMs



### Online survey to Council CLMs – closes 17 March 2022

A reminder to all council CLMs to complete the online survey, which has an extended closing date of **Thursday 17 March**. Your feedback on Crown land management issues will help guide Crown Lands in improving support for councils in the management of Crown reserves.

The results of this survey will also inform and build on priorities already identified by the Crown Land Management Council Executive Advisory Group. These priorities aim to resolve key issues in response to the recommendations in the Crown Land Commissioner's Evaluation Report 2021, following review of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

[Start survey](#)

### OLG Plan of Management funding reports reminder

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

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

## Launch of 2022 development program for CLMs



*Crown Land Manager Passport Program*

The CLM [Governance Development Program](#) (GDP) kicked off this year with a [survey](#) emailed to participants of the 2020/2021 program. Your feedback is important, please complete the survey so we can deliver programs that meet your needs.

Activities for the GDP this year include:

- **Webinars** and interactive online workshops
- **Reserve profiles**, case studies and resources
- **Reinventing volunteering** - explore different ways to attract volunteers.
- **CLM Passport Program** - each attendance equals a 'stamp' for your 'passport'.
- **Reserve open day/family day/event toolkit** - responding to CLMs who asked for some help and structure around event management.
- **ICDA Diploma of Governance** - more sponsored places will soon be available.

## Share your stories

Sharing stories is a great way to learn from each other and acknowledge CLMs work in managing Crown reserves for the benefit of communities. If you would like to contribute a story, please email us at [reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au).

## Contact

Council Crown land managers: [council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au)

Non-council Crown land managers: [reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au)

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