

Crown reserve management news Council Crown land managers

Department of Planning and Environment



Australian Standing Stones R33301

Photo: Jane Adam

Message from the Deputy Secretary



Crown Lands has released a new service standard for council Crown land manager plans of management (PoM), which comes into effect on 1 July 2023. The service standard aims to improve support for councils by providing clear timeframes for assessing and processing PoM approvals and clarity on roles and responsibilities.

Entries are open for this year's Community Achievement Awards, which provide an opportunity to recognise councils that are outstanding in the management of Crown land. Local government is pivotal to the provision of Crown land to NSW communities, and I encourage councils to submit a [nomination](#).

Workshops for councils in north-west NSW were well attended earlier this year, with staff from a good cross-section of councils participating. Strengthening relationships and supporting councils on the ground will continue, with further council workshops planned in other regions later this year.

Speaking of the north-west region, the annual Australian Celtic Festival was held at the Australian Standing Stones site in Glen Innes (pictured above) in early May. The event, which celebrated its 31st anniversary this year, is renowned as the premier Celtic event of New South Wales. It's a terrific example of the diverse ways that Crown land can be activated for tourism purposes and the public's use and enjoyment.

Melanie Hawyes
Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands

Service standard for council plans of management



Crown Lands has implemented a new [service standard](#) for council Crown land managers (CLMs), which comes into effect on 1 July 2023. The service standard sets expectations regarding timeframes for the delivery of PoM assessments and timely communication with councils.

Service standard outlined as follows:

- The department will assess a draft PoM within an 80 or 100 business day timeframe (depending on the number of reserves included in a PoM) from date of receipt.
- An acknowledgement of receipt of a draft PoM will be sent to the council within 3 business days.
- The department will contact the council when a draft PoM is assigned, and the assessment has started.
- Additional information or amendments may be requested by the department during the assessment. Assessment of a draft PoM will be placed on hold until the council finalises required amendments.
- If the council does not provide the department with a revised draft PoM within 6 months of the request for amendments, the application for approval will be cancelled. The council will be advised of this in writing and will need to resubmit an application.

The service standard will not apply to classifications, categorisations and PoM sent by council CLMs prior to 1 July 2023. The council CLM team continues to process these items as a priority. Refer to the service standard on the [Council CLM](#) webpage for further detail.

Updates to PoM guideline

The [guideline for Developing Plans of Management for community land Crown reserves](#) has been revised and updated with more information.

Good progress has been made in processing PoM in the past year. Since 1 July 2022, we have approved 80 PoM for public exhibition and 105 PoM have been adopted by councils.



Jeff Pettett, Mayor of 2022 winner Ku-ring-gai Council and Sarah Lees, Director, Programs & Partnerships at Crown Lands

Nominations for Community Achievement Awards open

Councils are encouraged to nominate themselves for the Community Achievement Awards 2023 in the 'Council Crown Land Management Excellence Award' category. The Excellence Award recognises a council that demonstrates outstanding community service ethos, dedication, and commitment to its communities as a Crown land manager.

The winning council will receive promotional coverage on regional television to promote their services as a Crown land manager. Nominees must be appointed as a council Crown land manager. One nomination is permitted per council, and the council can select either one Crown reserve or a group of Crown reserves for the submission. The council must also have an adopted PoM in place for the Crown land. Visit the [Awards Australia](#) website for further information on the [award criteria](#) and to [submit a nomination](#). Nominations close 24 August 2023.

Native title manager training 2023



Native Title Manager training in Sydney, July 2022

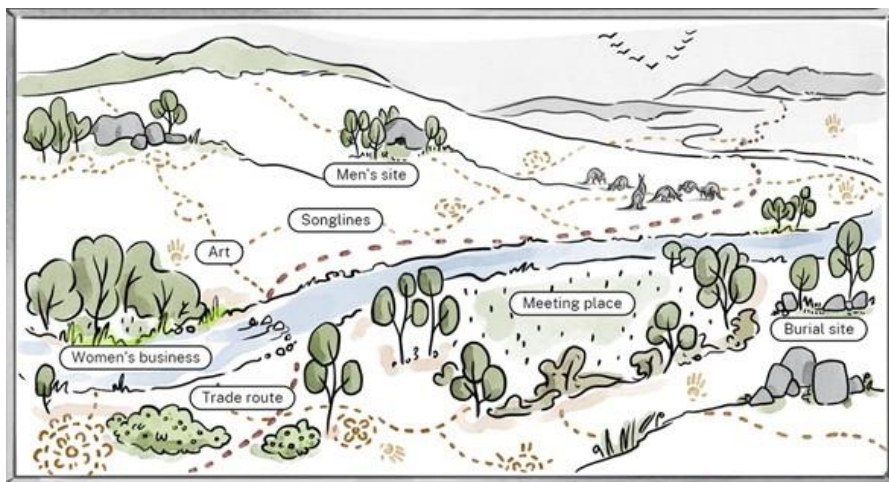
Native title manager training sessions are being held in this month in Armidale, Wagga Wagga and Sydney. Registrations for the training have now closed following strong demand from councils and Category 1 Crown land managers. Priority was given to those councils

without a current approved native title manager or those on the priority EOI list. If you missed out and require training, please email us at council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au to join the waitlist for the next round of training.

New resources about non-claimant applications

Native title non-claimant applications can allow for Crown land dealings and activities to proceed where there is no future act pathway and a native title claim or determination has not been made under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. The Department of Planning and Environment has released a [fact sheet](#) and [how-to guide](#) to assist with understanding processes for non-claimant applications.

New video illustrates native title



Crown Lands recently released a new [video](#) which provides an overview of native title. It includes insight into the origins of the Native Title Act 1993, information on the type of land where native title rights can exist and highlights the important role that native title managers play in the application of the legislation on Crown land.

Council workshops help strengthen knowledge



North-West council workshop with Cowra and Weddin Shire Councils

Following the successful council workshops last year in the far west and south-west regions, Crown Lands staff were on the road again in February and March this year, holding 11 workshops with representatives from 31 councils across the north-west region of NSW. These council workshops cover a range of topics about the management of Crown reserves, the PoM process and native title rights and interests.

In April, we also delivered a presentation to the executive leadership team at Maitland City Council on PoM process and native title. This session was targeted at executive staff to improve understanding of their responsibilities as Crown land managers and to provide considerations for planning projects on Crown reserves. Further workshops are planned for later this year in the south-east region and several workshops are being arranged with individual councils.

Council CLM Operational Working Group

With a renewed focus on direct engagement with councils via workshops, the Council CLM Operational Working Group, which formed in May 2021, will be discontinued in its current form. Participants will be contacted as a reference group, when required, for input into relevant operational or policy matters regarding the management of Crown land by councils. The council CLM team thanks those council staff for their participation in the working group and their valuable contributions to topic areas. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.



Cahills Lookout, Blue Mountains (image: BMCC)

Councils plans of management enhance community assets

The development of PoM provides many benefits for councils. They are a key strategic planning and governance tool that assist councils in the lawful management and use of Crown land. PoM set out objectives and performance targets for community land and authorise use of the land, including tenures and development.

Blue Mountains City Council adopted a site-specific [PoM for Cahills Lookout Reserve](#) in

November 2022. This land management plan ensures the provision of quality tourism and recreation experiences for the public. Coffs Harbour City Council adopted a [generic PoM](#) in December 2022 covering 14 reserves. The PoM helps the council to appropriately manage and improve a range of sites that are significant for the local community, as well as tourism and environmental purposes. To learn more about these examples and how PoM benefit councils, visit the [Reserve Manager](#) website.

Vale Sue Hartley



We are sad to advise of the passing of Sue Hartley in early May, a valued member of the council CLM team. Sue was a resident of Nowra and previously worked at Kiama Council before working at the Office of Local Government for over 15 years. In the last 2 years, Sue worked at Crown Lands helping to support council CLMs and was renowned for her wealth of knowledge in local government and property law. She was a highly respected employee who would go above and beyond to help her colleagues. Sue is greatly missed by her family, friends and work mates.

Frequently Asked Questions

For queries about plans of management, check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Council CLM webpage.

Contact

Email: council.clm@crowmland.nsw.gov.au

Further information and resources are available on the [Council Crown land manager webpage](#).

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to

our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.



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