



## Crown reserve management news



Woodchopping at Lismore Show, credit: Jessica Mills

**Dear NSW Crown land manager,**

In this update we provide the latest news to support your role in managing NSW Crown reserves including:

- a call for nominations for the Community Achievement Awards and not-for-profit Treasurer awards
- a new Governance Diploma program to boost skills in reserve management
- Belmont Wetland's new online permit technology
- updates on funding programs
- a reminder on annual reporting, and
- upcoming training webinar details.

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**[Nominate for a Crown land manager award](#)**

*It's Official*  
2021 Nominations are Now Open!



Nominations are now open for the 2021 NSW/ACT Community Achievement Awards.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands (the department) wants to recognise outstanding volunteers who devote their time to help manage Crown reserves on behalf of their communities.

Crown land managers can apply for the following two award categories:

1. **Crown Land Manager Excellence Award** – This award recognises a Crown land manager (the organisation) that exemplifies outstanding community service ethos, dedication and commitment to their communities.
2. **Individual Excellence in Crown Land Management Award** - This award recognises an individual volunteer involved in the management of Crown land that exemplifies outstanding community service ethos, dedication and commitment to their communities.

For more information and to nominate for an award category, visit the [Awards Australia website](#).

An awards gala dinner presentation will be held on 19 November 2021, at the Fairmont Resort & Spa, Blue Mountains. A \$2,000 prize package will be awarded to award category winners at the event and all nominations will receive a certificate of achievement.

Nominations close **11 August 2021**.

Want to recognise someone but don't have the time? Simply refer someone to the award organiser — it takes only two minutes to complete the [form](#) and the award organiser does the rest. Nominees will be contacted to complete the questions. It's that easy!

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## Award to recognise treasurers

Hardworking treasurers for not-for-profit community organisations are invited to nominate for an [OurCommunity](#) treasurer award. Treasurers who self-nominate could win a \$5,000 cash donation to go to the community group. To find out more and apply, visit the [OurCommunity website](#).

Nominations close at **12pm AEST, 8 July 2021**.

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## Apply for a free Governance Diploma



The department is sponsoring 100 free places in a Diploma of Governance course for non-Council Crown land managers and volunteers who assist in the management of Crown land reserves.

The Diploma of Governance course, normally valued at \$4,500 per participant, will be offered at no cost to 100 non-council Crown land manager (CLM) volunteers or community members who want to become a volunteer CLM.

As a CLM your governance skills need to be different to how you might manage a business or company. This course is practical and has been designed from the ground up to be solely relevant for community-based organisations and the not-for-profit sector.

[Read more...](#)

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**Funding program updates**





### **\$17 million annual grant program is now open**

Crown land managers and community groups that use Crown land are invited to apply for a share of \$17 million in grants to upgrade and maintain community facilities and public reserves as part of this year's Crown Reserve Improvement Fund (CRIF) Program. Open to all NSW Crown land managers, reserve user groups and showgrounds, the CRIF will fund upgrades, repairs, pest and weed eradication and other asset improvement works.

Applications close **5pm AEST, 25 June 2021**. [Find out more and apply.](#)

### **COVID-19 Recovery Support Program**

All applicants have now been notified on the outcome of their expressions of interest. The program received more than 160 applications of which 80 applicants were successful in receiving funding.

Applicants that did not receive funding for their reserve project or activity are encouraged to consider other options, such as the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund. [Find out about other funding opportunities.](#)

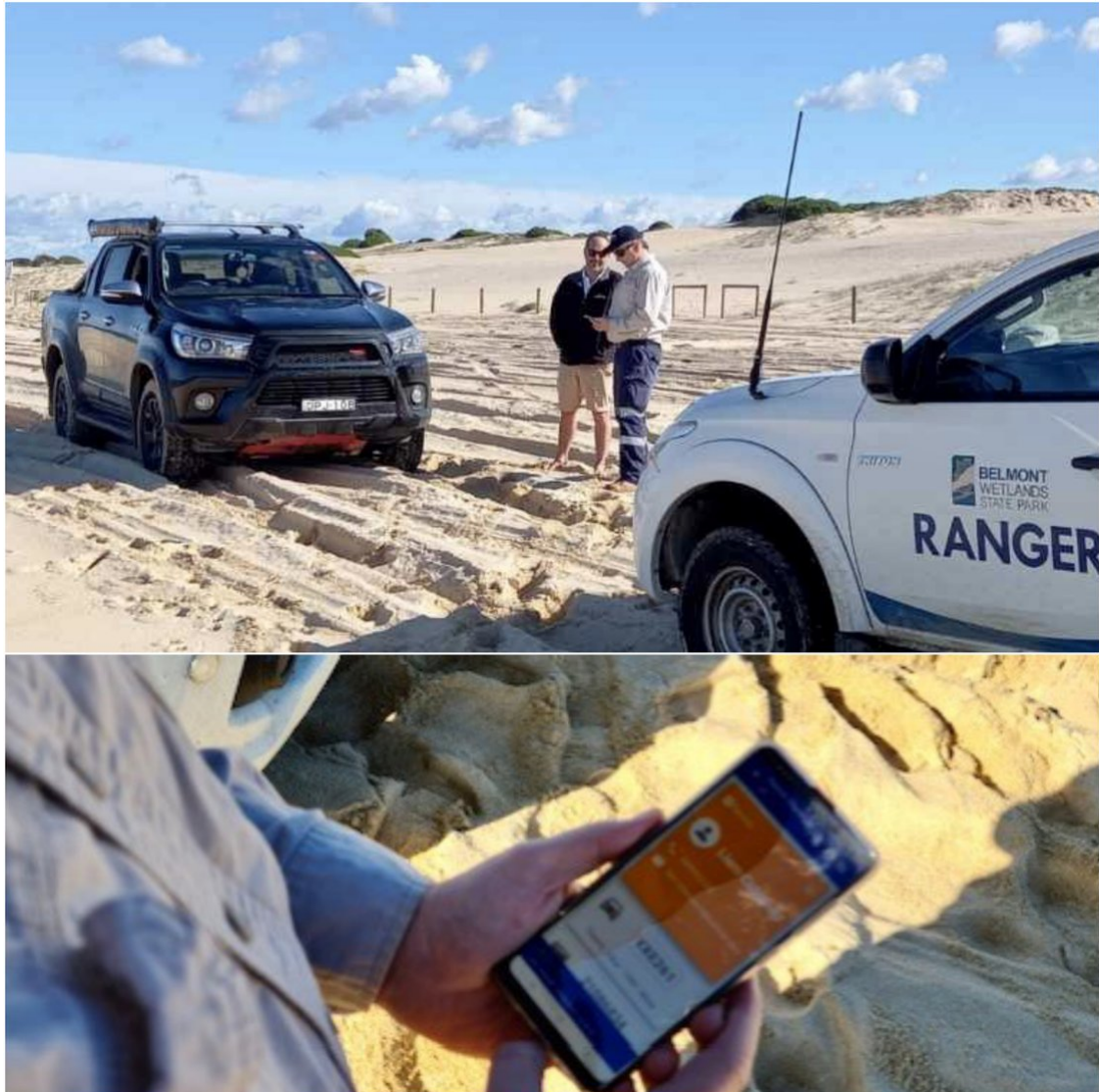
### **Community War Memorials Fund**

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 close at **5pm AEST, 26 July 2021**. Visit the [NSW Veterans Affairs website](#) to find out more.

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## New online permits deliver benefits for Belmont Wetlands



Belmont Wetlands State Park located in the NSW Hunter region is a popular nature park which attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Park features over 500 hectares of sand dunes, walking tracks, wetlands, and beaches. Visitors to the Crown reserve enjoy recreation activities such as camping, swimming, walking, bird watching as well as four-wheel driving (4WD) on the beach.

Vehicle access to the park is managed through a permit system, giving 4WD access to the wetlands including the beachfront.

For many years the Park's management committee had relied on an outdated, paper-based system to issue permits. The committee identified that the manual system was costly, inefficient, labor intensive and needed to be overhauled.

Nicole Dunn, Administrator at the Park explains the challenges of the paper-based system.

'The Park was incurring large costs to manage the paper permits system. The manual data processing of applications by staff was very inefficient, not to mention the safety concerns for staff handling cash payments with a system that was not flexible and was not user friendly,' says Nicole.

[Read more...](#)

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## 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, [contact us](#).

To find out more about reserves we have profiled, visit our [meet our managers webpage](#).

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## Are your contact details up to date?

Did you know that more than 1,200 organisations manage over 34,000 Crown reserves across NSW?

To help ensure the department has the most up to date contact details, check your information on the Reserve Manager Portal, Reserve Manager and Caravan and Camping website:

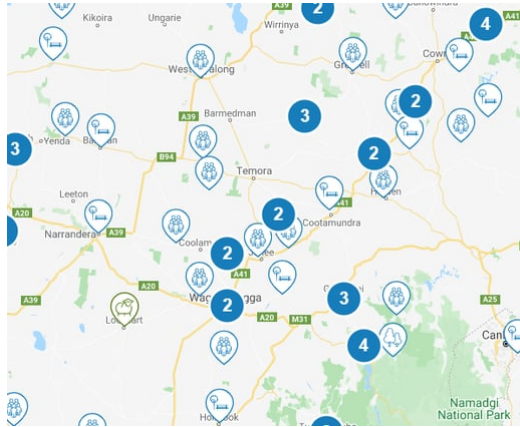


### Reserve Manager Portal

This lists your contact details as well as management details for the reserve(s) under your control.

Log into the [Reserve Manager Portal](#) to check your details.





## Reserve Manager Directory

The public directory lists information on your reserve. Keeping these details up to date will allow members of the public to find information on the reserve. It is also a handy resource for land managers to connect with other like-minded managers.

Log into the [Reserve Manager Portal](#) to register or check current listing.



## Caravan and Camping website

This public website showcases caravan and camping sites on Crown reserves. Land managers for these tourist sites should check contact details are correct.

Check your reserve details on the [website](#). For updates, complete the [online form](#). To submit a new listing, complete the website [publishing form](#) (PDF 224kb)

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## Annual reporting reminder

As the end of the financial year (FY) draws near, now is a great opportunity to ensure your Crown reserve is ready to compile its annual report.

Non-council Crown land managers are required to submit annual reports each year, as prescribed in the [Crown Land Management Regulation 2018](#).

The FY2020-21 annual report must be submitted by **31 October 2021**.

Why is annual reporting important?

- **It's a health check** – reporting helps to ensure public assets and records are being managed appropriately, helping to identify if any reserves need help.
- **Insurance cover** – the department can more accurately estimate asset values for insurance purposes.
- **Grant opportunities** – merit will be given to land managers who have up-to-date annual reporting when applying for departmental funding programs.
- **Asset/program investment** – reporting provides the department with valuable information that it can use to help justify further investment for these public lands.

#### **How to submit an annual report:**

Annual reports are submitted via the [Reserve Manager Portal](#)

#### **Support:**

- **Register for free training webinars** – see following section for details
- **Quick reference guide** - for guidance in completing the annual report in our Reserve Manager Portal, please refer to the [Submitting an annual report reference guide](#) (PDF 552kb).
- **Contact us** - if you would like to speak to someone at Crown Lands for more assistance, please contact us as per the below details.

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**More training webinars on offer**





Crown land managers are encouraged to tune into upcoming training webinars. Register for the following interactive sessions. If you are unable to join a webinar, continue to register and you will be sent a link of the recorded session after it has ended.

- **Understanding Aboriginal land rights and native title**
  - [Thursday, 17 June 2021, 4–5pm](#)
  - [Monday, 12 July 2021, 10–11am](#)
- **Introduction to Aboriginal land care practices**
  - [Tuesday, 29 June 2021, 4–5pm](#)
  - [Thursday, 22 July 2021, 10–11am](#)
- **Create your funding framework**
  - [Friday, 18 June 2021, 4–6pm](#)
  - [Wednesday, 30 June 2021, 10am–12pm](#)
- **Unlocking the potential of your Crown reserve**
  - [Monday 21 June 2021, 10–11am](#)
- **Waste less, save more, take action**
  - [Monday, 5 July 2021, 4–5pm](#)
  - [Wednesday, 28 July 2021, 10–11am](#)
- **Reporting requirements**
  - [Thursday, 24 June 2021, 4–5pm](#)
  - [Friday, 17 September 2021, 1–2pm](#)

## Nominate others to join a Crown reserve community board

Do you know of anyone who would be suitable to get involved in managing Crown reserves? Members of the public interested in becoming a volunteer Crown land manager can visit the [Reserve Manager website](#) for information on current available positions in their local community.

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## Contact

Email [reserves@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:reserves@crowmland.nsw.gov.au)

Phone 1300 886 235

Visit [reservemanager.crowmland.nsw.gov.au](http://reservemanager.crowmland.nsw.gov.au)



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