

Crown Lands

Department of Planning and Environment



Dungog Common Recreation Reserve – R1038088



Message from the Deputy Secretary

I am delighted to share that applications have opened for the 2023-24 [Crown Reserves Improvement Fund](#) (CRIF), with \$16 million in funding available.

The CRIF supports Crown land managers by providing funding for a range of projects to improve Crown reserves and assist with pest and weed management.

Last year the CRIF supported 263 projects totalling over \$16.4 million to maintain and upgrade facilities and reserves on Crown land for the benefit of the NSW community.

Crown land plays a central role in a changing and thriving NSW, by helping to create and support prosperous and resilient communities. It is vital that we continue to invest in this invaluable community land so that it can be enjoyed for many generations to come.

A big congratulations to the finalists who have been announced for the NSW & ACT Community Achievement Awards 2023, including 13 finalists across 3 Crown Lands categories. We received a high number of quality applications and I am pleased that the hard work and dedication of Crown land managers can be recognised through these awards. The awards night will be held on November 25, and I look forward to congratulating the winners in person!

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge the service of John Carr, who recently retired from his role on the board for the Newcastle Historic Reserve Land Manager. John served in the role for an impressive 35 years and his expertise in heritage architecture helped greatly to maintain and preserve the historic buildings on the site. I would like to thank John for his outstanding service helping to protect this significant community asset.

Melanie Hawyes
Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands

Apply now for the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund

Applications have opened for the 2023-24 [Crown Reserves Improvement Fund](#) (CRIF), which supports Crown land managers by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves.

Fourteen million in grants has been allocated for general projects, pests and weeds and an additional \$2 million has been set aside for loans. The funding aims to benefit the community, boost our economy and contribute to the cultural, sporting and recreational life of NSW. Applications close at 5pm, 17 November 2023.



Annual reporting due now

As a Crown land manager you are required to submit your annual report by 31 October 2023. If you haven't already, you can start your Annual Report by going to the [Reserve Manager Portal](#).

To make things easier, we have pre-populated data from your previous report and you will be able to edit and add items as required for this year's report. Remember, to be eligible for CRIF funding, your 2022-23 annual reports must be submitted.

Visit the Reserve Manager [website](#) for more information.

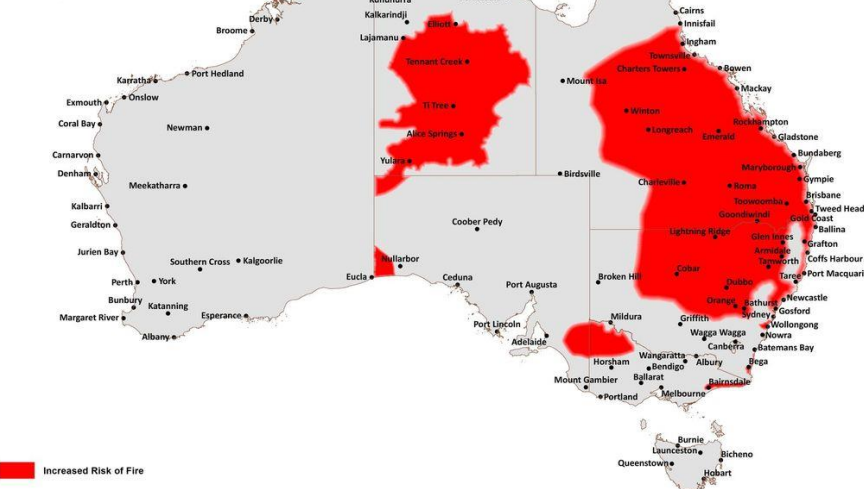


Finalists announced for Community Achievement Awards

The finalists have been announced for the [NSW & ACT Community Achievement Awards 2023](#), including 13 finalists across [3 Crown Lands categories](#). Winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony on 25 November 2023.



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Spring 2023



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Spring 2023 areas

Crown land managers urged to prepare for this bushfire season

The Australasian Fire Authorities Council has released the [Bushfire Seasonal Outlook for Spring](#). Large areas of central and northern NSW are expected to see increased fire risk this spring due to high fuel loads and the forecast of warmer and drier conditions.

Parts of the coast and ranges not affected by the 2019/20 fires are forecast to be at increased risk for bushfires this year, including areas around Greater Sydney, parts of the coast and north of the Hunter. Dry conditions on the South Coast also put the area at increased risk.

Crown land managers should prepare for the bushfire season now to ensure asset protection zones are in place where required and fire trails are cleared. Your local [NSW Rural Fire Service \(RFS\) Fire Control Centre](#) can advise on any hazard reduction works needed to prepare for the bushfire season.

The NSW RFS can also help develop a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan and establish liaison protocols with the relevant local bushfire committee. To keep up to date with bushfire information, check the following sites regularly:

[RFS – Fires near me](#)

[RFS – Fire danger ratings and total fire bans NSW](#)



John Carr, previous Newcastle Historic Reserve Land Manager board member

John Carr retires from Newcastle Historic Reserve Land Manager Board

John Carr retired from his role on the board for the Newcastle Historic Reserve Land Manager in October, after being a stalwart supporter of the reserve for over 35 years. John's principal involvement in the reserve was to serve on the board and provide expert architectural input into the function of the reserve to maintain and preserve the buildings based on his extensive knowledge of the buildings and his expertise as a heritage architect. Crown Lands thanks John for his long service helping to preserve, maintain and improve this significant community asset. [Read more.](#)



Mount Arthur Reserve Wellington (image: Destination NSW)

Improving sustainability on Crown reserves

Do you want to better understand how sustainable your reserve is? Or are you interested in learning more about practical solutions that can help you deliver sustainable experiences for visitors?

Destination NSW has partnered with Ecotourism Australia and EarthCheck to provide a range of resources to help you on your sustainability journey, [including quick tips for creating sustainable experiences](#).

Eligible visitor economy organisations can sign up to the [Sustainability Skills Micro-credentials](#) to expand knowledge or benchmark current operations with the [Strive 4 Sustainability Scorecard](#). You must have an active NSW Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listing under the category of: accommodation, attraction, event, food and drink, information service or tour. [Learn more](#).



Reflections Holiday Parks Board - applications open

Applications are now open for 3 board member positions on the Reflections Holidays Parks board, including an opportunity to be considered for the Chair role. Applications close 1 November 2023 with roles to commence early 2024. Visit the [Reserve Manager](#) website for more information.

Crown Lands board vacancies

There are a number of additional board vacancies currently available with Crown Lands. We're looking for people from a wide range of backgrounds with a diversity of skills, expertise and interests, who are passionate about public land management and the benefits it provides to the community. [View Board vacancies](#).

Contact

- Email: reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au
- Phone: 1300 886 235

reservemanager.crowland.nsw.gov.au

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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