

# Crown Lands

Department of Planning and Environment



Melanie Hawyes pictured with the Community Achievement Awards winners at the 2023 Awards Night

## Message from the Deputy Secretary



Congratulations to Broken Hill's Christine Adams, Tenterfield Shire Council and Tingha Recreation Reserve Land Managers for winning awards for excellence in Crown land management at the 2023 Community Achievement Awards for NSW and the ACT.

I was delighted to be able to attend Awards Ceremony on 25 November, with the winners selected from 13 finalists across three Crown Lands awards categories. Finalists came from regions across NSW including Sydney, the Far West, Hunter, Riverina, Northern Tablelands, Central Coast, Murray, Far North Coast and New England. The entries were of an incredible standard and all participants should feel incredibly proud of their achievements.

In 2023, over 900 organisations partner with the NSW Government to manage Crown reserves to ensure public lands are enjoyed by the community. There are over 2,500 volunteer members of Crown land manager organisations and more than 6,500 Crown reserves are managed by 128 local councils across NSW.

Crown land managers are vital to the continued provision of quality public land for communities across NSW. This land fosters community spirit by providing shared spaces, supporting tourism, the environment and local businesses.

I commend the hard work and dedication of all our Crown land managers, particularly this year's finalists and winners at the 2023 Community Achievement Awards. You are helping to preserve, maintain and enhance Crown reserves for your communities and the benefit of NSW.

**Melanie Hawyes**

**Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces**

## Community Achievement Award winners announced

Christine Adams - Individual Excellence in Crown Land Management Award winner



Christine is the engine behind the Sulphide Street Railway and Historical Museum in Broken Hill. Since 2008, she has served as secretary, treasurer and curator. Under her stewardship, the museum expanded to include the Migrant Museum, Transport Pavilion, and more.

She also cultivates a vibrant community spirit through public open days, allowing locals and tourists to appreciate Sulphide Street Railway and Historical Museum's rich cultural history. Her outstanding dedication to the Broken Hill community was recognised earlier this year when Christine was inducted into the 2023 Nydia Edes Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Tenterfield Shire Council - Council Crown Land Management Excellence Award winner



Tenterfield Shire Council Mayor Bronwyn Petrie and Melanie Hawyes

Tenterfield Shire Council has transformed its two-hectare Power House Reserve into a dynamic Youth Precinct that provides a vast array of recreational, social and cultural activities. After extensive collaboration with

the local community, the council constructed a skatepark, mountain bike skills track, yarning circle and accessible pathways, helping create a thriving space for all ages to enjoy.

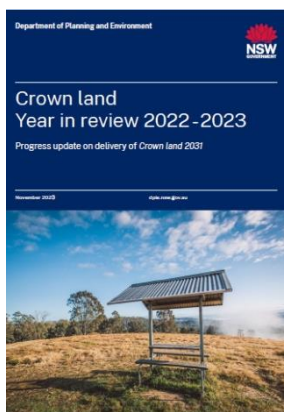
### Tingha Recreation Reserve Managers - Crown Land Management Excellence Award winner



This group of dedicated volunteer retirees have done a phenomenal job of revitalising the reserve by securing over \$200,000 in grants for infrastructure upgrades, including a new hall floor, enhanced lighting and security cameras. The extensive improvements support community activities and have fostered a sense of community pride in the town of Tingha.

[Read more](#)

### Crown land year in review 2022-2023



We are making significant progress towards delivering the priorities set out in Crown land 2031, our 10-year strategy to ensure that Crown land is put to its best uses to benefit communities.

We have just published the first [Crown land year in review](#), outlining how we are making progress against the priority areas and providing a progress update for key deliverables within the first action plan. The report also highlights key achievements that occurred during the 2022-2023 financial year. The review is the first of its kind for Crown Lands, marking our commitment to report progress annually.

## New resources for councils



Crown Lands has published a new [fact sheet](#) to help councils better understand the difference between the management of Crown land devolved to them and reserves where they are the appointed Crown land manager. The [guidelines for classification of Crown land managed by council Crown land managers](#) have also been updated to assist councils with the classification process.

The new [Coastal Crown Land Guidelines](#) integrates with Coastal Management Programs and Plans of Management. The guidelines will assist councils and other Crown land managers in managing coastal Crown land in an integrated and strategic way.

## ***Aboriginal Land Rights Act training***



Aboriginal Affairs NSW, in partnership with NSW Aboriginal Land Council and other stakeholders including Crown Lands, has developed an education and training program to transform the current Aboriginal land claims process. The program will provide an introductory level of education and aims to improve understanding of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)* amongst government agencies who are directly involved in the land claims process.

Council Crown land managers can submit an expression of interest directly to Aboriginal Affairs NSW to participate in the training. Module 1 includes a day



on Country hosted by a Local Aboriginal Land Council. Limited spaces are available in 2024 for this highly popular experience. If you are interested in joining the wait-list or require more information, please contact [alratraining@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alratraining@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au).

There will be 3 training modules released as part of the ALRA program including face-to-face and online activities. This training is critical in assisting councils in their role as Crown land managers. Currently there are approximately 38,500 undetermined Aboriginal land claims across NSW. Training participants will acquire knowledge to apply ALRA legislation in a culturally safe and capable manner.

In other training news, Crown Lands is preparing to deliver the next round of approved training for council-nominated native title managers. This training is planned for March 2024 with dates to be confirmed in January. Nominated native title managers within councils and Category 1 Crown land managers that require training should contact the council Crown land manager team at [council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au) to be placed on the EOI list for training.



## Electric Vehicle Destination Charging Grants now open

The NSW Government is investing \$20 million to assist eligible regional NSW businesses and councils by co-funding the purchase and installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers. This grant will allow participants to have up to 75% of the purchase and installation cost covered.

EV ownership is growing, and EV drivers are now planning their trips around EV charging locations. The grant supports destinations to attract tourists to their areas and helps to reduce carbon emissions to meet the NSW Government's Net Zero emissions target.

Round 2 funding opportunities are now open, and applications close at 5.00pm on Friday 3 May 2024. Applicants are required to have a live Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listing. For more information around eligibility and to apply please click [here](#).

## Reminder regarding consent to adopt a Plan of Management and adopted Plans of Management



Councils are reminded that once Crown Lands has provided consent to adopt a Plan of Management (PoM), councils must send a copy of the final adopted PoM back to Crown Lands. If a council makes substantial changes to a PoM following public exhibition, it must again be submitted to Crown Lands for approval by the Minister. Refer to the [Guideline for developing Plans of Management for Community Land \(June 2023\)](#) which includes information on appropriate forms and templates.

Councils are also reminded that all adopted PoMs must be published on their website. Please email [council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au) for any enquiries regarding PoMs.

## Council Crown land manager workshops



Crown Lands workshops in Goulburn and Queanbeyan

Crown Lands staff were on the road recently running workshops with councils in the Southern Tablelands. The Reserve Programs team and staff from the South-East region's Land and Asset Management team hosted 2 workshops, in Goulburn and Queanbeyan on 14 and 15 November.

The workshops focused on the management of Crown reserves, Plans of Management and native title rights and interests. Representatives from 5 councils attended across the 2 days and we were happy to receive a positive level of engagement and feedback from attendees. Thanks to all council staff who joined us at the workshops to learn more about Crown land management.

## Aboriginal engagement for Plans of Management



The City of Sydney adopted the [Johnston's Creek Parklands Plan of Management](#) on 21 March 2022. The council's engagement with First Nations members helped to inform the development of the PoM and future plans for Johnston's Creek Parklands. Engagement methods included workshops which provided an opportunity for more in-depth discussions around Crown land, specifically with the First Nations community.

Conversations from engagement with First Nations members resulted in the integration of a series of general principles into the management of Crown



land. Discussions during community engagement also focused on potential ways that these principles could be put into action, with ideas detailed in the PoM under 9 key themes.

[Read more.](#)

## Spotlight on adopted Plans of Management

### *King George Park Plan of Management*



Boat racks on King George Park foreshore, viewed from jetty. (Image: Welsh + Major Architects)

Inner West Council adopted the [King George Park Plan of Management](#) (PoM) in November 2022. The council has identified significant areas for improvement and future works for the park, located in Rozelle. The PoM includes the council's site Master Plan, which outlines planned site upgrades. These examples demonstrate how councils can leverage PoMs to authorise future development on Crown land and improve community assets and infrastructure.

### *Community Services Precinct (Kookora & Benerembah Streets) Plan of Management*



Views of Barnabas House Crisis Accommodation. (Images: Melva Robb)

Griffith City Council adopted the [Community Services Precinct \(Kookora & Benerembah Streets\) Plan of Management](#) on 24 January 2023, which

demonstrates the high community value that Crown land can provide. The area covered within the reserve provides community-based services which encourage social inclusion and cater to disadvantaged community members undergoing adverse life events.

Multiple buildings across 4 sites provide a range of services including crisis accommodation and counselling services for women and children, and the Griffith Base Hospital Aged Day Respite Centre offers several rehabilitation services for mobility compromised and elderly members of the community.

## Frequently Asked Questions

You can view [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the [council Crown land manager](#) web page.

## Contact

Crown Lands will be closed for the holiday period from 25 December 2023 to 5 January 2024.

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

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

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