

Community Engagement Strategy

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the Act) recognises that community engagement is essential for the effective management of the vast portfolio of lands that make up the Crown estate in NSW.

The *Community Engagement Strategy* (the Strategy) has been developed as a key requirement of the Act to ensure community input is actively sought and considered before decisions are made about the management of Crown land. The Strategy is a statutory document which must be followed by responsible parties. The Strategy is supported by a *Guidance and Resources* document which assists with the determination of the engagement requirements and the selection of appropriate methods to reach communities that may be impacted by a proposal. It also provides a library of engagement templates and resources to support non-council Crown land managers (non-council CLMs) with implementing the requirements of the Strategy.

Strategy dealings and activities

Responsible parties	In-scope dealings and activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Minister the Secretary of the NSW Department of Industry the Lands Administration Ministerial Corporation staff of the department non-council Crown land managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation of the State Strategic Plan preparation of a plan of management alteration or removal of a purpose for which Crown land is dedicated or reserved (changes to reservations and dedications) sales of Crown land under the Act vestings of Crown land under the Act granting of leases, licences or permits over Crown land under the Act

Local councils will manage the Crown lands they are entrusted with in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This will include following the community engagement requirements under the local government framework.

Overview of the community engagement process under the Strategy

The Strategy requires that certain assessments are carried out about the way the community currently uses and enjoys the land in order to determine the engagement requirements. For changes to reservations and dedications, vestings and licences, engagement is required where the proposed dealing or activity may impact on the community’s current use and enjoyment of the land. The Strategy requires the below process be followed for these dealings and activities.



Community use and enjoyment test

The ‘current community use and enjoyment’ test is met where it is assessed that the community is currently using or enjoying the land and the proposed dealing or activity could impact on this use or enjoyment. If this test is met, then community engagement will be required.

Types of community engagement

The engagement approach adopted by the Strategy is based on the widely-recognised Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development approach to government–citizen engagement, which includes the following spectrum of government–citizen engagement:



Inform	Consult	Participate
<p>One-way communication providing reliable, balanced and objective information to the community. Engagement activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placement of notification on the department's website (mandatory) • local newspaper advertisements • fact sheets or FAQs • signage—local or site • letter box drops 	<p>Two-way communication designed to obtain feedback about ideas, proposals and important activities and dealings. Engagement activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community information events • NSW government Have Your Say website • online forum • submissions 	<p>Two-way communication that enables collaboration between community and decision-makers to identify issues and views. Engagement activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • targeted meetings • interactive workshops • walkshops (onsite tours/visit) • community advisory or consultative committee

Choosing the right community engagement activity

Where it is assessed that a dealing or activity will impact on current community use and enjoyment and for all sales, leases and plans of management, the Strategy requires that an assessment is conducted to determine the level of impact. The level of impact determines the engagement requirements, which can be summarised as follows:

- **Minimal impact:** Informative consultation (28 days on the department's website)
- **Moderate impact:** Informative consultation (28 days on the department's website), plus at least one consultative method
- **High-impact:** Informative consultation (42 days on the department's website), plus at least one consultative method, plus at least one participatory method.

Considering engagement outcomes in decision-making processes

Where engagement has been conducted, it is a mandatory requirement of the Strategy that the outcomes of community engagement be considered in the final decision making process. Once the final determination is made, the community will be informed about the final decision on the department's website.

Mandatory engagement requirements for plans of management sales and leases

The Strategy requires, as a minimum, that:

- proposed sales, plans of management and leases are all notified on the department's website—regardless of whether they impact on current community use and enjoyment
- all draft plans of management and all high-impact sales and leases must be exhibited for 42 days
- a submissions process is also to be carried out for all sales and plans of management.

Additional engagement requirements also apply for moderate and high-impact leases and high-impact sales and plans of management.

Mandatory engagement requirements for the state strategic plan

The Strategy also includes engagement requirements for the state strategic plan. The requirement is that a draft of the state strategic plan must be publicly exhibited.