

The NSW Government has a proud history of providing access to land so that community organisations and individuals as members of boards can provide a range of facilities and activities for their local communities. Without this partnership, communities across NSW would not have access to the diversity of opportunities and uses currently available on Crown reserves.

Crown land legislation information sessions

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the Act) will introduce revised arrangements that better recognise the diversity and capability of our Crown reserve managers.

To find out more about the Act, make sure you register to attend one of the information sessions being held in late May 2018 across the state.

By attending an information session, you will learn about the new Act and what it means for you as a community manager of a Crown reserve.

As well as providing information on the new Act, the sessions will be a great opportunity to meet other non-council reserve managers in your area.

The sessions also cover the new Crown land *Community Engagement Strategy*, and the new Crown Reserve *Code of Conduct*.

All Reserve Trust board members and representatives of corporate managers are welcome to attend.

Please note: all current reserve trust board members will automatically continue under the new Act.



Byron YAC amphitheatre

Location	Date	Venue
Newcastle	Monday 21 May	NEX (Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre) 309 King Street
Dubbo	Tuesday 22 May	Dubbo RSL 178 Brisbane Street
Sydney	Tuesday 22 May	Cliftons 60 Margaret Street
Port Macquarie	Thursday 24 May	Panthers, 1 Bay Street
Orange	Thursday 24 May	Waratah Sports Club 34 Telopea Way
Ballina	Tuesday 29 May	Ballina RSL, 1 Grant Street
Tamworth	Tuesday 29 May	Tamworth Wests Kable Avenue
Goulburn	Tuesday 29 May	Goulburn Soldiers 15/17 Market Street
Glen Innes	Thursday 31 May	Glen Innes District Services Club 120 Grey Street
Wagga Wagga	Thursday 31 May	Wagga RSL Kincaid & Dobbs Streets

Session times (same presentation at each session time):
12pm to 3pm (includes light lunch) **or**
6pm to 9pm (include light supper)

Please RSVP by 14 May 2018.

If you did not receive an invitation, please call the department on **1300 886 235** to register your attendance at one of the available sessions.

If you are unable to attend, information will be available on the department's website at www.industry.nsw.gov.au

Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Trust



Perched on a headland just north of Gosford, the Norah Head Lighthouse is one of the Central Coast's most spectacular icons

The Norah Head lighthouse, built between 1901 and 1903, is still in operation and has become a popular tourist destination.

The Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Trust is a non-profit organisation comprising seven local community representatives appointed by the NSW Government to manage the reserve and its associated activities.

The trust is ably supported by 50 passionate volunteers, who conduct tours of the lighthouse, the site and its historic buildings and maintain the surrounding bushland through bush care and coast care groups.

Two reserve managers live on site and manage the accommodation and bookings. The heritage Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage and Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage are let for accommodation and the venue is available for hire for weddings, receptions and photos, and other functions.

Gary Dean, Chair of the trust, said 'it is a wonderful example of volunteers maintaining a public asset'.

'All income from guided tours, accommodation and venue hire is directed towards the upkeep and preservation of the Norah Head Lighthouse, buildings and site. Donations from people or companies committed to the ongoing preservation of the site are also greatly appreciated by the trust', he said.

Guided tours of the lighthouse are available from 10 am to 1 pm every day of the year except Christmas and ANZAC days. Visits to the reserve over the past five years have grown from 11,867 people in 2015 to 15,438 people in 2017. These guided tours generated \$73,265 in 2017.

There has also been steady growth in the guest accommodation. It is now difficult to book a weekend unless you book 12 months in advance. Gary said that more work is needed to fill the weekday gaps and the trust's marketing committee and the reserve managers are developing initiatives to achieve that aim.

The revamped guest accommodation was given a 4 Star rating for 2017–18 in the category of 'self-catering'.

Gary said, 'we have always known and thought that we were "winners" with our activities at the reserve, but occasionally it is nice to have that recognised by others. During our term we have received the Regional Gold Award for cultural tourism, been nominated as a State Finalist in that same category, recognised as a great place for wedding ceremonies and were a finalist (runner up) at the 2017 State Regional and Community Awards for Community Managers'.



Some of the 50 passionate volunteers who conduct tours of the lighthouse, the site and its historic buildings and maintain the surrounding bushland

In the end it comes down to good management and governance processes on behalf of the trust and volunteers and support from the local community.

'Without the support of our wonderful volunteers Norah Head Lighthouse could not be maintained and operated in the way it is', Gary said.

For more information: www.norahheadlighthouse.com.au

Share your story

Sharing stories is a great way to learn from each other and recognise the hard work and dedication of reserve managers.

If you have a story to share, please email a one page Word document (include photos) to reserves@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Staff profile

Silas Sutherland, Area Manager North Coast



Stretching all the way from Tweed Heads to Port Stephens and inland to the Great Dividing Range, the North Coast area has more than 4,000 Crown reserves.

Silas Sutherland, the Area Manager for the North Coast region, works with 20 other dedicated team members to help Crown land managers look after these precious assets.

Silas has been with Crown Lands for almost 15 years and he says one of the most rewarding parts of his job is the diversity it presents every day.

'I get to engage with lots of people and organisations, ranging from not-for-profit groups and volunteers who manage reserves, through to councils and corporate bodies.

'There are so many wonderful people working to preserve, maintain and improve our Crown lands—volunteers, surf lifesaving clubs, councils, chambers of commerce, holiday parks managers and other interest groups—it is a very varied and rewarding job,' Silas said.

Not only do these Crown lands include halls, showgrounds, parks and waterways, there are also lighthouses, harbours and marinas to look after. Land management activities include environmental protection works, pest animal and weed control, bushfire hazard reduction and management of contaminated sites.

Silas says he has a fantastic team to work with and it is impossible to do the job without their dedication, hard work and support.

'It's a real privilege to be part of managing the Crown land estate and working with all the stakeholders to provide these precious assets for the public's enjoyment,' he said.



Silas (far right) with most of his team at South West Rocks—November 2017

Nominate for the 2018 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards

We want to hear about the great things your reserve trust is doing to benefit our rural and regional communities. The department is sponsoring two categories for our managers:

- Crown reserve corporate manager's award
- Crown reserve community manager's award.

Our sponsorship is a small way to say thank you and recognise the passion and countless hours that are contributed to support our Crown reserves. So don't be modest about your achievements.

Nominations for the 2018 awards will open on Wednesday, 30 May and all reserve trusts are encouraged to nominate. Further information can be found at www.awardsaustralia.com



Showgrounds—have your say

Representing more than 80% of all showgrounds in NSW, the network of 169 showgrounds on Crown land are multi-use facilities providing diverse social and economic benefits to a broad cross-section of the community.

The department would like to hear from showground managers and stakeholders to help inform future planning and decisions about these important community assets. Survey forms have been sent to all reserve trusts - and will be open until 27 May 2018. If you have not received a survey form, please call 1300 886 235.

For more information

Department of Industry—Lands & Water
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands

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