

MINISTER FOR LANDS, MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>2007-08 Budget \$m</i>	<i>2008-09 Budget \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Lands			
Total Expenses	92.2	97.8	6.1
Capital Expenditure	1.7	0.9	-47.8
Land and Property Information New South Wales			
Total Expenses	164.6	167.8	2.0
Capital Expenditure	19.0	19.0	...
Total, Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, and Minister for Regional Development			
Total Expenses	256.8	265.6	3.4
Capital Expenditure	20.7	19.9	-3.9

In addition to the agencies listed above, the Minister is also supported by the Department of State and Regional Development (Section 19) for the Regional Development portfolio area.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

The Department administers Crown land within New South Wales and manages environmental soil conservation earthworks and consulting services. Land and Property Information New South Wales (a division within the Department), also undertakes property valuations and provides guarantee of title to land on a fee for service basis.

The Department operates from 68 rural and regional locations with its major governing legislation being the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *Soil Conservation Act 1938*, the *Valuation of Land Act 1916* and the *Real Property Act 1900*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Department contributes to the State's natural resource infrastructure management and economic activity levels by working towards the following results:

- ◆ State land infrastructure assets provide an economic return to the Crown.
- ◆ Crown land estate administration and management is continually enhanced.
- ◆ The economic and community needs for property are met.
- ◆ The environmental condition of land is improved.

Key services provided by the Department which contribute to these results include:

- ◆ collecting revenue and undertaking other Crown land administrative activities
- ◆ marketing and disposing of Crown land for residential, commercial, industrial and rural use
- ◆ managing Crown reserves and walking tracks, in partnership with local councils and community trusts, for the benefit and use of the public
- ◆ environmental management of Crown land for conservation and sustainability in public use and industry
- ◆ managing indigenous land rights issues under Aboriginal Land Rights and Native Title legislation
- ◆ delivering soil and water conservation solutions by managing and implementing soil conservation earthworks and consultancy services and
- ◆ engagement of rural communities throughout New South Wales to develop solutions to address issues affecting their sustainability.

The key services provided by Department of Lands and the way in which they are expected to contribute to results are set out in the following table:

Service Groups	2008-09 Budget Expenses \$m	Results		
		Improved management of the Crown Estate	Economic and community needs are met	Environmental condition of land is improved
Crown Lands	64.9	✓	✓	✓
Soil Conservation and Rural Services	32.9		✓	✓
Total Expenses Excluding Losses	97.8			

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The transfer of administration of the Western Lands Commission to the Department in late 2006-07 provides a number of ongoing synergies in effective Crown land management and administration.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2004, Parliament approved changes to the *Crown Lands Act 1989* to simplify Crown land lease and licence administration. These changes continue to result in the divestment of some lands to its users while other land will be sold.

Work is continuing to refocus the Soil Conservation Service to make it commercially viable whilst providing value added services to its rural and regional customers.

2008-09 BUDGET INITIATIVES

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2008-09 are \$97.8 million, including \$64.9 million for the maintenance and management of Crown lands (including \$5.5 million to meet the Government's commitments under the Tweed River Sand Bypassing Act), \$19.7 million for soil conservation activity and \$13.2 million paid to Land and Property Information New South Wales.

Capital Expenditure

The total capital program for the Department for 2008-09 is \$878,000, including funding of \$393,000 for plant and equipment and \$235,000 for replacement of computer equipment and related systems. It is also planned that \$250,000 for equipment acquisition will be spent within the Soil Conservation Service.

AGENCY RESULT INDICATORS

Improved management of the Crown estate

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Gross revenue collected from leases and licenses	\$000	52,429	63,822	63,734	74,869
ii) Lots sold	no.	223	231	200	200

Notes:

- i) This indicator shows the effectiveness for improving the economic return on Crown land infrastructure assets.
- ii) This indicator shows the number of Crown land lots required for other purposes that are sold.

Economic and community needs for Crown land are met

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Crown reserves managed through trust arrangements	%	48	48	48	48
ii) Days Tweed River entrance is navigable	no.	365	365	366	365
iii) Aboriginal Land Claims granted	no.	43	12	10	10
iv) Community forums	no.	29	25	30	30

Notes:

- i) This indicator shows the effectiveness (by area) of land under community management.
- ii) This indicator shows the effectiveness of sand dredging at the river mouth in ensuring the river remains navigable for commercial & recreational purposes.
- iii) Effectiveness of land processing function in settlement of Aboriginal land claims.
- iv) Gather information from rural communities for input into Government decision making.

Environmental condition of lands is improved

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Soil treated by conservation works	ha.	23,375	24,151	20,000	20,000
ii) Environmental projects undertaken	no.	296	370	389	408

Notes:

- i) This provides a guide as to the area of land that was treated by conservation earthworks.
- ii) This indicates the number of environmental soil conservation projects undertaken each year by the Soil Conservation Service.

LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION NEW SOUTH WALES

Through the Surveyor General, Registrar General and Valuer General statutory positions, Land and Property Information (LPI) manages the State's land and property registration system, mapping, survey and land valuation services. LPI is a commercial business division within the Department of Lands.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

LPI's overall business grows in line with the increasing number of properties in New South Wales. LPI launched the Spatial Information eXchange (SIX) portal during the year, which provides fast and easy access to Government information including: the latest land and property information, emergency services assets, maps, digital data and imagery across the whole of New South Wales.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

LPI continues to invest in integrating its data sets and in electronic delivery of its information to improve efficiency and convenience for its customers. LPI will also work with other jurisdictions to develop a National Electronic Conveyancing System. When fully implemented this system will further enhance the way conveyancing is undertaken across Australia.

2008-09 BUDGET INITIATIVES

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2008-09 are estimated at \$167.8 million. The majority of this expenditure is for statutory land valuations, land title creation and registration services, spatial information, survey and mapping services and technical support.

Capital Expenditure

The 2008-09 Budget for capital expenditure is \$19 million. The program for LPI includes improving land information systems, enhancing and developing electronic service delivery capabilities and the renewal of plant and equipment.

New projects include:

- ◆ introduction of SAP Human Resources for internal efficiency and support
- ◆ conversion of manual titles – Stage 2 and
- ◆ New South Wales surface model improvement project.

Ongoing projects include:

- ◆ development of systems for National Electronic Conveyancing and electronic lodgement of plans
- ◆ conservation and digitisation of historical plans and historical aerial photography
- ◆ improving Government Property Holding information systems
- ◆ improving spatial data infrastructure including geographical coding of addresses, topographical and cadastral data systems, and survey and spatial data services and
- ◆ converting the Old Form Register to digital format and conversion of Crown parcels to the Integrated Titling System.