

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

1. With regard to Crown Reserves managed by community Trusts, it is important to ensure the Trust does not suffer for lack of Trustees, funds and support.
 - a. Trustees should be recruited energetically, to form an effective and active Trust. Where Trustees are drawn from places distant (>5km) to the reserve, they should demonstrate that they have easy frequent access to the reserve. Where Trustees are drawn from the close environs of the reserve, they should demonstrate that they are willing to visit the reserve frequently. The recruitment process should include media attention as well as media advertisements, and could also include direct mailing campaigns to local residents. Social media should be utilised to ensure as wide an audience as possible is reached, and the vacancy on the Trust should be promoted commensurate with the responsibilities involved.
 - b. A Trust should be appointed with members that collectively possess the range of skills, experience and qualifications to manage the reserve
 - c. A Trust that loses members for any reason during the term of their appointment should have ready access to recruitment assistance so that the number of Trustees does not fall below the "critical mass" of an effective committee. This of course will depend on the responsibilities of the Trust and the needs of the reserve and its various stakeholder relationships. However a Trust should not be allowed to stagnate for want of recruitment assistance. Trustees who are unable to meet and contribute to the operations of the Trust ought to be encouraged to stand aside so that a more active member can be recruited.
 - d. Funding of Reserves that have little or no income should be obtainable by community Trusts to assist with maintenance as well as capital works.
 - e. Training should be readily available to Trusts, especially governance training.
2. Annual Reports of Crown Reserve Trusts should be available to the public, and feedback of monitoring of the reports should be provided to the Trust. Otherwise what is the point of making the effort to prepare the report, if no-one offers any feedback to the trust?

With regard to Travelling Stock Reserves,

These are important corridors for wildlife and for the stock they serve. Management of these reserves should not be devolved to local landholders or councils, but should remain with Crown Lands.

Travelling Stock Reserves should be managed for biodiversity values as well as well being of travelling stock, especially in the face of climate change which will challenge farmers, stock and biodiversity.

The Travelling Stock Reserves in the Riverina are being managed imaginatively and effectively and much can be learned and gained from following those practices throughout the state. It is essential to preserve the biodiversity in these reserves, as genetic stores for the remnants of bushland they may connect.

Thank you for receiving this submission.

Regards,