

CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2026

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

The purpose of the Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2026 (the **Bill**) is to amend the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the **Act**) based on recommendations for reform resulting from a 5-year statutory review of the Act. The review found that while the objects of the Act remain valid and the terms remain appropriate for achieving the objects, reforms are required to ensure the Act continues to be fit-for-purpose and can provide a strong foundation for future use and management of Crown land.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The Bill makes various amendments to the Act to build on the initial reforms it introduced so that:

- public value from Crown land is maximised,
- Crown land managers are stronger and more capable, and
- Crown land is used, cared for, and managed in more contemporary ways.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the Bill?

The NSW Government considers the policy is best implemented through legislative change. Legislative change is the only mechanism through which to implement the review recommendations. Non-legislative options would not enable the objectives described above to be fully realised and therefore would not ensure the Crown land management system, and the Crown estate, is equipped to meet future challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The Bill does not impose any appreciable cost or burden on the public or any group of the public. As such, no alternative policies and mechanisms have been considered or analysed.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The Bill will commence by proclamation. This is to provide sufficient time for implementation planning, including development of communication for stakeholders about key changes to the Act.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The review included consultation with internal and external stakeholders. A discussion paper was released for public consultation on identified issues and priorities for reform. Crown Lands staff were also consulted on issues with the use and application of the Act, and relevant government agencies and some key stakeholder groups were engaged through one-on-one meetings to discuss areas of interest.