Easements on Crown land

What is an easement?

An easement is a registered right made between a landowner and an individual, company, council or other authority to use a landowner’s property for a particular purpose. An easement is not ownership of the land, it is an ongoing registered right to use a portion of the land, for example access to drive over an area.

An easement is often connected to a specified property. This means that the easement is tied to the property, not the owner, therefore the rights attached to the easement are transferred when the property is sold.

Statutory easements

Statutory easements are created under legislation and only apply to certain organisations.

How can I get an easement?

Application forms for easements are available online: www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/land-management/crown-lands/forms-factsheets

Completed applications should be sent to your local Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) office with the application fee.

Before lodging an application you should consider other available options, such as purchasing the land. Where another option is available an easement may not be granted.

Department staff will assess the application, which includes investigations into the tenure of the land, the native title status, the biodiversity, cultural heritage and contamination issues.

Approval

If approval is granted for the easement, it is the applicant’s responsibility to lodge a plan showing the location of the easement with the Land Services Group.

Costs of preparing plans will be the applicant’s responsibility, along with additional fees incurred.

Responsibility

An easement does not grant an exclusive right to the land and members of the public cannot be excluded from Crown land. The landowner of the rights to the easement is responsible for maintaining the land.

For more information

For enquiries, please contact the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources:
DEWNR.CrownLandsEnquiries@sa.gov.au

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GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE SA 5001
P (08) 8204 1218

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