Dedicated Crown land

Dedicated land is Crown land that has been reserved for a specific public purpose under the Crown Land Management Act 2009.

These purposes may include recreation, sporting clubs and conservation. In most cases dedicated land is placed under the care, control and management of another body, which may include local councils and other government agencies.

Purpose and conditions

Dedicated land must only be used for the specific purpose that it was dedicated for. Use of the land must be consistent with the dedicated purpose. If a custodian wishes to use the land for a different purpose for example change use from a sporting use to conservation, an application to amend the dedication needs to be lodged with your local natural resources office.

Conditions are placed on a custodian in relation to the care, control and management of dedicated land under the Crown Land Management Act 2009.

To confirm the current dedication purpose or to enquire about amending the dedication, please contact your local natural resources office.

Development and Native Title

Native title rights continue to exist on many parcels of dedicated land. Development may impact on native title rights, where they exist the custodian may be liable under the Crown Land Management Act 2009 for any compensation under the Native Title Act 1993.

Custodians of dedicated land should contact their local natural resources office to determine the status of native title rights:

- If native title has been extinguished (on the land) development will not affect these rights.
- Where native title exists, only a few development types are permitted. In these cases, there are procedures that must be followed to notify native title claimants.

Leasing on dedicated land

The Crown Land Management Act 2009 allows the custodian to issue a lease over dedicated land with the consent of the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation. A lease is required when a third party has interest in using the dedicated land. The Minister may impose conditions over that lease. Any lease issued without this consent will be invalid.

The Minister may refuse the grant of a lease if:

- it would detract from any existing public use and enjoyment of the land
- it would prevent the land being used for the purpose for which it was dedicated
- the Minister considers it would be improper or undesirable.

Leases on dedicated land issued under previous legislation will remain in force, however consent will be required to extend a lease beyond its current term. Please contact your local natural resources office for further information.

Consent is not required for a licence which gives a person or body the right to use a specified portion of Crown land for a purpose but does not grant an exclusive right to the land. For example, a licence for the use of an area for a sports club once a week.
How do I apply?

Application forms are available online:

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

For more information

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

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