

NSW Department of Industry - Lands & Water

## Agricultural Societies Council of NSW

**David Clarke - Group Director Governance & Strategy**

# *Crown Land Management Act 2016*

- In 2012 first review of Crown land in 25 years
- Previous legislation was complex and confusing – included 8 different pieces and offered little opportunity for community to be involved in meaningful discussions about how Crown land is managed and used

## Benefits:

- Modern, streamlined and transparent management of Crown land
- Recognises and facilitates Aboriginal involvement in the management of Crown land
- Provides for meaningful community engagement where appropriate
- State Strategic plan

# Community Engagement Strategy

- The Community Engagement Strategy ensures community input in actively sought and considered before decision are made about the management of Crown land.
- The Strategy requires that certain assessments are carried out about the way the community currently uses and enjoys the land – this determines the engagement requirements
- The Strategy is required for :
  - plans of management
  - sales of Crown land
  - vestings of Crown land
  - alteration to reservations and dedications
  - Granting of leases, licence and permits
  - Preparation of the State Strategic plan

# Diversity of NSW showgrounds



# NSW showgrounds snapshot

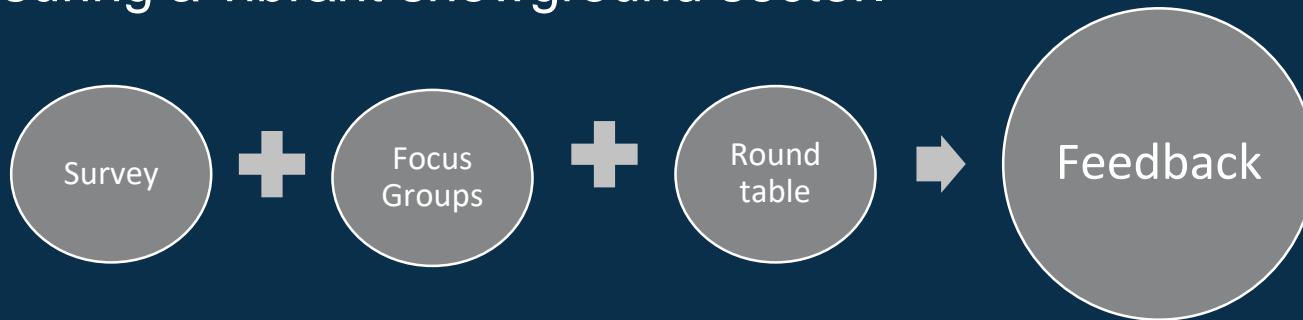
- 169 showgrounds on Crown land (85% of all NSW showgrounds)
  - 45% managed by volunteer trust Boards
  - 45% managed by local Councils
  - 10% managed - other
- 72% located in NSW's central corridor
- 30% within 200km of major urban growth centre

# Economic value & volunteer contribution

- \$400m - land and built assets value
- \$258m - annual economic contribution of regional show network to NSW
- 50% managed directly by volunteers
- 631 - direct volunteers involved in governance
- \$18m - annual volunteer contribution for showground governance/operations

# Gathering feedback

- This year our focus is on understanding what we need for future success and longevity.
- Our engagement has allowed us to capture suggestions for the future use of showgrounds.
- Maintaining committed stakeholder relationships is essential to ensuring a vibrant showground sector.



# What we heard

## Showgrounds are vital for the community

Crown land user

“We regularly use the showground and can see the benefits provided to our broader community. There are so many visitors now attending events, staying and experiencing our region”



Crown land manager

“Showgrounds are vital for providing a community location that brings people together and supports our small rural based population”



Crown land user

“Showgrounds are vital for our community. If we had no showground, our community wouldn't exist”

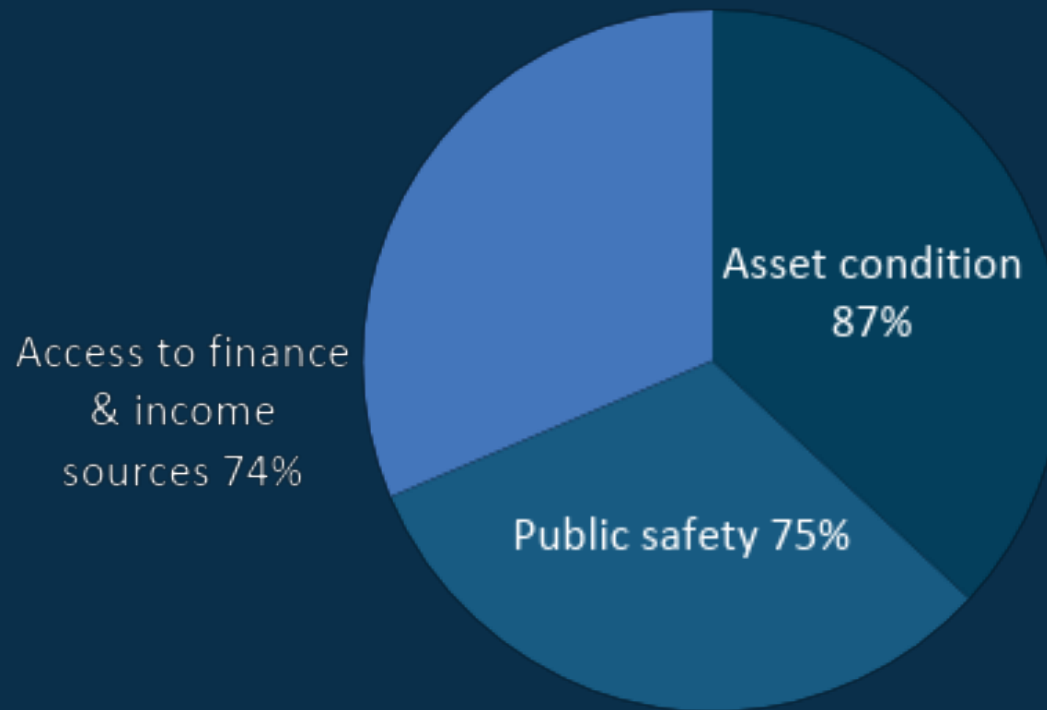




# Focus groups: Biggest challenges for showgrounds

- Ageing and inappropriate facilities
- Unreliable or inadequate funding
- Lack of volunteers
- Falling population in regional areas.

# Manager's survey: Three most important factors for the future of showgrounds



# Key themes

- Showground importance to community
- Concern for the ongoing viability of showgrounds
- Volunteers have vital role
- Showgrounds to remain as community assets - largely used by not-for-profit local groups
- More support needed from government
  - aid knowledge sharing between showgrounds
  - strategic planning with showground managers

# Next steps

## 1. **We commit to continuing the conversation**

Meet with key showground stakeholders annually, listen to your concerns and feedback, and initiate change

## 2. **We will respond to feedback given**

Department of Industry will respond to the feedback raised during the consultations and survey

# Contact us:



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