

General Crown land licences

Introduction

In Victoria, a variety of legislation enables the licensing of Crown land for specified uses, e.g. agricultural purposes such as grazing. However, legislation also includes provision for the licensing of Crown land for other uses that may not be specified explicitly.

Licensing Process

Licences for use of Crown land for non-agricultural purposes are termed general licences. Examples of such uses include gravel extraction, water storage and recreation/tourism. A licence over Crown land provides personal permission to enter and use the land for a specified purpose and does not offer exclusive use to the licensee.

General Crown land licences can be issued for an extensive range of uses, however certain types of uses may require additional approvals or be subject to special assessment processes (eg extractive industry operations on Crown land). In those cases, general Crown land licence applications may be considered in conjunction with the other approval processes that may be required to approve the project (e.g. planning permit applications).

Responsibility for the issue of general Crown land licences resides with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) acting on behalf of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. When considering any application to use Crown land, DELWP must ensure that public land values are protected. Examples of these include environmental, historic, recreation, natural resource and cultural significance values.

General Crown land licences can be issued for up to ten years. DELWP may decline applications or impose special conditions where appropriate. A licence may be cancelled if conditions are not met.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for a general Crown land licence?

You will need to apply in writing to DELWP. Please contact your local office as a first step. Ask for the 'Application to use Crown Land' form.

How is rental calculated for a general Crown land licence?

Rental costs vary depending on the purpose of the licence. If the land is to be used for a commercial or private purpose, the rent will be based on market rates determined by a valuation having regard to comparable commercial rental in the private sector. If the land is to be used for community purposes, a reduced rent will apply. In most cases, rent amounts are reviewed and adjusted every three years.

Are there any other fees involved in obtaining a general Crown land licence?

Yes. A licence application fee applies to all applications, and in some circumstances a licence preparation, transfer or replacement fee applies. Contact your local DELWP office for further details.

What is the likely term that I will obtain for my Crown land licence?

Licence terms vary between one and ten years depending on the nature of the use and the relevant legislation. As part of the initial assessment of the application, the term of the licence to be offered will be determined.

What do I do if I don't agree with the proposed rental?

Where rental is determined by valuation and you wish to appeal against the valued rental, you must obtain your own independent valuation from a private licensed valuer to support an appeal.

Am I liable for rates on the licensed Crown land?

Yes. Under the conditions of the licence the licensee must pay all rates and charges applicable. Your local council will determine whether it charges rates on the licensed Crown land.

If I hold a Crown land licence, do I have the right to exclude others from the licence area?

No. A licence does not convey any exclusive rights to the licensee. A licence provides a right to carry out the activity specified in the licence. If you think you require exclusive use of the land, please raise this with DELWP.

Will my private details be kept private?

DELWP is committed to protecting information provided in accordance with the principles of the *Information Privacy Act 2000*.

Information contained in your licence, or any other correspondence related to your licence, may be stored and used by DELWP for the purpose of advising DELWP and/or the relevant Minister on matters relating to the management of Crown lands in Victoria. This information may be disclosed to other relevant governments agencies or statutory authorities or local government authorities for these purposes or if required by law.

For more information, visit the [DELWP Privacy Policy](#) page.

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