

# Crown land in Victoria (Overview)

Good Governance Fact Sheet No. 12  
for Committees of Management  
of Crown land reserves in Victoria

Crown land is land owned by the State or Commonwealth Government. Most Crown land in Victoria is owned by the Victorian Government.

## Different types of Crown land

About one third of Victoria is Crown land, 8 million hectares in over 100,000 parcels of land. Of this land, approximately:

- 50% of Crown land in Victoria is national or state parks.
- 39% is State Forests.
- 4% is unreserved or Australian Government managed Crown land.
- 7% (550,000 hectares) is Crown land reserves.

## Crown land reserves, local government and committees of management

There are more than 8,000 Crown land reserves in Victoria.

They include many public schools, universities and TAFE colleges, public hospitals, mental health and other community services, cemeteries, municipal buildings and land, public roads, government railways, parks, community halls, recreation reserves and racecourses.

Many Crown land reserves are managed directly by local government (shires/councils).

Around 1,500 Crown land reserves are managed by voluntary committees of management with support and oversight from DELWP. There are around 1,150 voluntary committees of management across Victoria. Most committees manage one reserve while some manage two or more reserves.

The majority of Crown land reserve committees of management are legally incorporated as organisations through the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. Some “committees of management” of Crown land reserves are organisations incorporated through other means, such as Incorporated Associations or Companies Limited by Guarantee. These organisations typically have a range of other functions besides managing Crown land reserves and tend not to refer to their organisations as committees of management.

## *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*

The key legislation governing Crown land reserves in Victoria is the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

The Act has various sections of direct relevance to committees of management, including:

- Appointment of committees of management (Section 14)
- Powers of committees of management (Section 15)

A [copy of the \*Crown Land \(Reserves\) Act 1978\*](#) can be obtained free of charge from the website of the [Victorian Legislation website](#).