



Paul Toole
Minister for Lands and Forestry
Minister for Racing

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

NSW APPOINTS ITS FIRST CROWN LANDS COMMISSIONER

Professor Richard Bush has been appointed as the first NSW Crown Lands Commissioner, Minister for Lands and Forestry Paul Toole announced today.

“Professor Bush is a specialist in the areas of land and water management, and natural resource assessment, making him ideal for this newly created role,” Mr Toole said.

“He is the founding Director and Global Innovation Chair of the International Centre for Balanced Land Use at the University of Newcastle and has had a long and distinguished career in academia and government.

“He has also established a successful research centre at Southern Cross University focusing on Geoscience, and has been awarded multiple fellowships and research grants in Australia and China in the areas of soil science and geography.

“In 2000 he led a specialist team to implement the NSW Premier’s Salinity Strategy, a \$54 million project to address the social, environmental and economic impacts of soil salinity in the Hunter Region, Western Sydney and other metropolitan centres.

“He has a unique combination of skills and experience in planning, land use and engagement and I’m confident he is the right choice for this role.”

The Crown Lands Commissioner will provide independent advice to Crown land users, stakeholders, the community and the NSW Government.

The role of the Crown Lands Commissioner was established to provide independent advice on the implementation of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and the Community Engagement Strategy, which came into effect this year.

“Professor Bush’s appointment is integral to the Government’s new streamlined and modern approach to the management of the State’s Crown reserves,” Mr Toole said.

“The Commissioner will represent the interests of all Crown land users independently, bringing further transparency and open communication to the management of these important assets.”

Professor Bush has been appointed on a three-year contract and was selected through a competitive recruitment process.

MEDIA: Eleisha Rogers 0439 867 112

Professor Richard Bush biography:

Professor Bush is the founding Director and Global Innovation Chair of the International Centre for Balanced Land Use at the University of Newcastle. He has held numerous academic and research positions at the University of Newcastle and Southern Cross University, publishing more than 200 scientific reports over a more than 20-year academic career.

In his current role at the International Centre for Balanced Land Use he leads projects in collaboration with industry, government and higher education, nationally and internationally.

His research focuses on policy and technical innovations to promote economic, environmental and social balance for sustainable regional development.