



**Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier of NSW**  
**Minister for Trade and Investment**  
**Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**NSW GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE PAPER ROAD PILE UP**

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services Andrew Stoner today announced plans to clear the current backlog and accelerate the disposal of 'paper' Crown roads.

"Almost half of NSW Crown roads are 'paper roads' that exist only on a map, or are little more than tracks, and are frequently contained within private property under a permit from the State," Mr Stoner said.

"The sale of Crown roads not needed for public purposes has proved hugely popular.

"Unfortunately under Labor a huge backlog of applications built up, with over 6,500 road closure applications still awaiting processing.

"Staff are currently processing applications from 2006/2007, and we realise this delay is completely unacceptable.

"Many farmers and landholders have in good faith commenced the road closure process only to discover an agency struggling to deal with the number of applications.

"At my direction, the NSW Government has begun the acceleration of the program.

"Our intention is to process 9,600 road disposals in the next four years, clearing the existing backlog and ensuring timely processing of incoming applications.

"The statutory process required to close and then dispose of a paper Crown road takes a minimum of six to seven months for a straight forward closure and sale with no objections. We are reviewing the current arrangements around consultation, valuations and surveys, with a view to simplifying the process.

"We can accelerate processing by centralising administration, reducing timeframes for consultation and objections, and processing applications in batches rather than one at a time.

"By clearing the backlog and streamlining the process, Crown Lands will become more efficient and responsive to its key stakeholders and customers who are mostly located in regional areas."