



## The Hon Paul Toole MP

Minister for Lands and Forestry  
Minister for Racing

RECEIVED  
25 SEP 2017

BY:.....

IM17/19150

Mr Geoff Provest  
Member for Tweed  
PO Box 6695  
TWEED HEADS SOUTH NSW 2486

21 SEP 2017

Dear Mr Provest

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2017 on behalf of Tweed Shire Council asking for assistance with a permanent site for the Pottsville and District Men's Shed.

I understand that the Men's Shed was required to move following the Pottsville Beach Public School requiring the land they were temporarily located on. I note that Tweed Shire Council has now issued a five-year licence with the stipulation that options to find an alternative, long term site should be investigated.

An initial desk top review has been undertaken by the Department of Industry (DoI) – Lands & Forestry, which has not identified any suitable Crown Land in the immediate area. I also understand that the Australian Men's Shed Association has not put in a request for DoI Lands & Forestry to identify suitable sites for a Men's Shed, and a preferred location and site requirements for the new Men's Shed is not known.

Should the Men's Shed identify a suitable parcel of Crown Land, DoI Lands & Forestry would be pleased to undertake an investigation on the suitability of that parcel including relevant statutory obligations including Aboriginal land claims and native title legislative requirements. As it may be difficult to find unencumbered Crown land suitable for this purpose in the Pottsville area, it may be preferable for Tweed Shire Council to investigate its own property portfolio for a suitable site.

It is noted that Tweed Shire Council gave development consent (DA15/0160) on 14 December 2015 to the construction of a Men's Shed facility on Council owned land being part lot 301 DP 1125090 (Black Rocks Sports Field).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Men's Sheds is between the department and the Australian Men's Shed Association, and Local Government Authorities are not parties to the MOU.


As you may be aware, the department is working with Tweed Council and the Local Aboriginal Land Council on the local land pilot to explore the concept of local land being transferred to local councils to enable land of local significance to be managed

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at the local level. This process is progressing well, and on completion, which is anticipated during 2018, Tweed Shire Council may be better placed to identify a suitable site for a Men's Shed within the local government area.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If you, or Tweed Shire Council, have any further enquiries, please contact Silas Sutherland, Area Manager North Coast in DoL Lands & Forestry, on (02) 6591 3580.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Toole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

Paul Toole MP  
**Minister**