



The Hon Andrew Stoner MP
Acting Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NSW GOVERNMENT HELPS BUILD
POPULAR MEN'S SHEDS**

Acting Premier Andrew Stoner today said the NSW Government would free-up access to crown-owned facilities for the creation of more men's sheds across the State.

Mr Stoner made the announcement at Strathfield Men's Shed today.

"Today, there are 200 men's sheds across NSW and this figure is set to grow in response to an historic agreement between the NSW Government and the Australian Men's Shed Association," Mr Stoner said.

"This agreement provides a streamlined process for Government-owned assets like land or buildings to be utilised by the Men's Shed movement in NSW.

"Men's sheds provide a welcoming environment for men to meet, engage, and work together on a variety of trade-related activities in a safe environment promoting men's health and wellbeing.

"Already, 33 men's sheds in NSW are on Crown land in places like Maitland, Parkes, Taree, Ulladulla, Morpeth, Griffith, Oberon, Dubbo, Ku-ring-gai and Marrickville.

"Facilities such as showgrounds and buildings on Crown reserves are being transformed into popular men's sheds, attracting a strong membership as a community meeting point.

"We see a real opportunity here to help in the creation of more men's sheds in regional, rural and metropolitan NSW, and as a result continue their exceptional work."

Member for Drummoyne John Sidoti said the Strathfield Men's Shed had established itself as a valuable community-based volunteer organisation.

"Its members are positive, friendly, civic minded men that make a great contribution to our local community," Mr Sidoti said.

"For example, they made reading tables for Bass Hill Public School and a book cabinet for Yagoona Public School. The wider community has benefited from their initiative and creativity."

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) provides a framework for acting on requests from the AMSA to establish a men's shed on Crown land administered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The Men's Shed movement began in 2007 and has grown rapidly throughout the country.

AMSA spokesperson Ted Donnelly welcomed the support of the NSW Government which he said would undoubtedly help the movement grow in NSW.

"There are over 750 men's sheds in Australia helping their members to remain active in the community for longer, and supporting their mental and physical well-being," Mr Donnelly said.

"Men's sheds are actively engaging men in their communities and providing a valuable community service while preventing social isolation."