



Josephine Geia
Chairperson

Bwgaman Land Trust
Beach Road
C/O Palm Island Post Office
PALM ISLAND QLD 4816

RECEIVED

18 JUN 2014

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

30/05/2014

RE: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Land (Providing Freehold) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 Submission

The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

To the Director

I write on behalf of the Bwgaman Aboriginal Land Trust (BALT) of Palm Island in Queensland in reference to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Land (Providing Freehold) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

As Chairperson of BALT I received a letter from your office outlining the request for submissions that may impact on indigenous communities.

We would like to support the needs of this bill as they relate to lands occupied and or used by indigenous Australians particularly to our people of the Bwgaman Community.

We hold 53 acres under a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) located in Townsville that as granted back to the Bwgaman Aboriginal Land Trust for the benefit of our people and their future.

WE are currently working with Dreamtime Operations in a master plan for the development of this land that will see hundreds of indigenous jobs created and support the local community in business generation, training and supportive services and pave the way to true Bridging the Gap programs. As an indigenous development this project will see both indigenous and non-indigenous people working together to effectively create a cultural and community precinct for all people to benefit from.

The bill introduced by Hon Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines will have direct impact on the development project we are working on and as such we feel that the following points should be made by us to support this bill:

1. The introduction to allow the freehold ownership of indigenous titled land is one that will support this development and provide a far greater opportunity for people to own their own land and home, something that is truly the Australian Dream.



2. The simplification of leasing frameworks will assist in helping to lease commercial and other properties on the development, which will reduce the waiting time and pressure of the Honourable Ministers office to execute. The provision to allow BALT to sign off on leasing themselves will support a far greater avenue of uptake and management by BALT.
3. The rights of BALT to manage their land and conduct activities as per their plans and objectives for future growth will support the long term growth of BALT.

It is important to understand that our future is in our land and we will work tirelessly to see the people of Palm Island and the Bwgaman people to work with the government to help improve the lives of indigenous people and create a strong future for our children and people.

I have attached a draft copy of the plans for the site that we are working on for your reference. The basic elements of the site are:

53 acres in Cranbrook to be developed under a training and skills development model. Help improve qualifications and skills of indigenous community and provide access to facilities for everyone.

Goals & Objectives

- Over 150 indigenous Apprenticeships over 5 years
- 200 + traineeships
- Over 400 trade and labour jobs to support the development

Thank you and we look forward to future developments to this Bill.

We therefore put forward our full support for this bill and wish to have our voice heard.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josephine Geia', written over a faint circular stamp.

Josephine Geia
Chairperson
Bwgaman Land Trust.

Building Areas



Site Plan A-





Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Sub # 8

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
P: 07 3406 7908 F: 07 3406 7070
E: AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au
W: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/AREC

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 11.1.23

21 May 2014

Ms Josephine Geia
Chairperson
c/- Post Office
PALM ISLAND QLD 4816

Dear Ms Geia,

Re: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

I write on behalf of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee of the Queensland Parliament to advise you of our current inquiry and to invite you to provide a submission.

The committee has commenced an inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, which was introduced in Parliament on 8 May 2014 by Hon Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The objectives of the Bill are to:

1. introduce the option of ordinary freehold title into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
2. simplify the leasing framework that applies to Indigenous land to reduce the regulatory burden on trustees and lessees;
3. amend the *Land Valuation Act 2010* to enable Indigenous Local Government Areas to be subject to statutory valuations;
4. provide for the repeal of the *Aurukun and Mornington Shire Leases Act 1978* upon transfer under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* of the remaining shire lease land; and
5. amend the *Land Act 1994* to provide the Minister with power to declare, on a case by case basis, a conditional right of public access over private land where, due to erosion, the access along the area of beach has been compromised by the private ownership of the beach area.

The committee is examining the policies the Bill seeks to give effect to, the Bill's lawfulness, and the application of fundamental legislative principles, as set out in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. Information about the committee's inquiry including links to the Bill, Explanatory Notes and other useful information are available on the committee's website at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/en/work-of-committees/committees/AREC>

Call for submissions

The committee is calling for public submissions to its inquiry into the Bill. Written submissions are best sent by email to AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Alternatively, submissions may be sent to:

The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

The closing date for written submissions is **Monday, 16 June 2014**.

Departmental briefing

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines briefed the committee on the Bill on 21 May 2014. A transcript of this briefing is available on the committee's website as well as recording of the briefing.

For further information

Any questions about the work of the committee and its inquiry should be directed to the Research Director, Mr Rob Hansen, on 07 3406 7669 or 1800 504 022.

Regards



Ian Rickuss MP
Chair
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee