

5th July 2012



The Honourable Mr J Seeney,
Deputy Premier of Queensland,
BRISBANE.

Dear Deputy Premier,

Re Queensland Land Tenure System Viz:L353 / C24335 - Chinchilla . K J & N Dwyer

I read in the Queensland Country Life Newspaper that an Inquiry has been ordered into the Queensland Land Tenure System and that Mr Ted Malone is to Chair that Inquiry

For very many years my wife's uncle Mr Sydney Gordon Russell had held this land under Special Lease 16/6074. When Mr Russell died in 1983 the Lease was included in property bequeathed to my wife and me. Subsequently we renewed the Lease when its term expired and paid the annual rent each year.

The Department decided to change our holding from Special Lease to Permit to Occupy. From our point of view the major difference in the two situations is that we could not pass on our interest to our beneficiaries which we would like to be able to do because of the length of time for which the Russell Family had been involved with it. My wife and I are both over 80 years of age and we wish to settle matters relating to estate planning which would include the Leasehold lands we hold as well as the land held under freehold title

We wrote to the Lands Department (as it then was) many years ago seeking to convert the leasehold land into freehold. The then Minister Mr Bill Glasson replied that conversion of the lease to freehold tenure would not be allowed as the land had potential for subdivision into rural residential sites. The land is situated on the banks of Charleys Creek and was severely affected by the 1211 New Year floods and the land would be of little interest to anyone other than us.

We have written to our local Member Mr Howard Hobbs to enquire the reason why the Special Lease was changed to a Permit to Occupy and we requested him to ask the new Minister to consider restoring the previous situation. Mr Hobbs has replied that he has made representations to his colleague Mr Andrew Cripps on our behalf. However, we would also like to opportunity to make a submission Mr Malone's Committee in this regard.

Yours faithfully