

Rhia Campillo

Submission #8

From: Danielle Duell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 20 July 2012 10:49 PM
To: State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Spicers Group Submission - Inquiry into the future and continued relevance of Government land tenure across Queensland

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Blue

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 State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
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Inquiry into the future and continued relevance of Government land tenure across Queensland: Submission from the Spicers Group

- The Spicers Group owns and operates six hotels, retreats and a luxury camp site on 7500 ha of freehold grazing and rural land in South East (SE) Queensland.
- 5400 ha of Spicers' land holdings is Nature Refuge - comprising roughly 35% of all Nature Refuge area in SE Queensland.
- Seven kilometres of our land shares a boundary with the Main Range National Park.
- 50% of all state government approved koala revegetation land under the SE Queensland Koala Nature Refuges Program is underway on Spicers properties.
- Spicers has 80 kilometres of walking and bike riding tracks on its properties.
- Spicers wants to expand tourist experiences between and around its properties. Spicers envision iconic walks linking retreats in remote areas of the Blackall Range on the Sunshine Coast and along the northern Scenic Rim to showcase the environment.

Spicers manages its land, vegetation, businesses and its place in the community in a sustainable way. In effect, this freehold land is managed much like a national park where eco-tourism, livestock production and nature conservation coexist. This is encapsulated in Spicers' Sustainability Vision:

The Spicers Group is creating iconic native Australian flora and fauna attractions and reserves for present and future generations to enjoy. Spicers' non-urban properties support bio-diverse, sustainable environments and farm land that extends over 90% of our landholdings. Year on year, we are attracting increasing numbers of guests and

visitors to experience the open spaces and the richness of the flora and fauna we sustain. We are educating and wowing our team, our guests and visitors through these encounters which further reinforce our reputation and commitment to sustainability whilst also strengthening the performance of the businesses we operate from these locations.

Spicers Submits that:

1. Historically, some tourism and recreation activities have been excluded from the protected area estate because they are not considered 'nature based recreation' under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. We support a review of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to provide a more balanced access for the tourism and recreation sectors for national parks, particularly that land is appropriately classified.
2. We support that land of exceptional environmental value has the highest possible protection but also to provide for improved accessibility for tourism, recreation and education.
3. We support that The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing gives a high priority as land managers to apply a multiple use of protected areas without destroying the values these lands have been set aside for in the first place. This means the industry could gain access to suitable land to meet the increasing demand and to provide for a diversity of activities.
4. There are significant economic benefits of long-distance trails. We need Queensland legislation that enables the consistent management of linear trails both outside the protected area estate which cross multiple tenures and within protected areas.
5. The key requirements for viable investment on national parks that encourage tourism related developments are commercially viable lease terms that reflect the nature of the investment and the likely return, for example up to 50 years or more; secondly, negotiable lease rents or payments that reflect the nature of the investment and the likely return; thirdly, the recognition of the high costs of establishing and operating a tourism development in a national park, particularly in a more remote location and finally, the recognition of the non-financial value created by such private investment for public benefit.
6. We share the widespread view that the regulatory requirements for tourism operators to conduct tours and activities in and on national parks are unnecessarily complex and unwieldy. For example, we have demonstrated we are committed environmentalists on large tracts of freehold land under Conservation Agreements and designated Nature refuges, and this should be recognised in our access to other protected areas . We can

actually help! We could improve infrastructure and interpretive services where government has not been able to provide resources. For example high-quality safari tents could make a very positive contribution to the park in which they are operating.

Please feel free to contact me or Spicers' Natural Resource Co-ordinator - David Stent (cc'd on this email) should you require any further input.

Yours sincerely

Danielle

Danielle Duell MBA MAICD

CEO



2011 Winner Best Luxury Accommodation (Queensland Tourism Awards)
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