

## SUBMISSION TO LAND TENURE ENQUIRIE

We hold a 45500 hectare Preferential Pastoral Lease near Thargomindah in the mulga lands of South West Queensland on which we normally run 8500-9000 sheep and 800 head of grown cattle. Our numbers are down at present due to spelling country after a 10 year drought. We are in the process of Lease renewal under the Delbassie Agreement.

## Some Points

- We were lead to believe that we could end up with a longer lease term if the land was in good condition. Our assessment was that the land was in good condition with no remedial problems ( the best possible) but were told that under the Delbassie Agreement we were not allowed a lease any longer than our current one owing to native title. The Delbassie Agreement also allows Government to nominate land of environment values and excise them at the end of the new lease. Try selling a lease with a provision in it to have some of it taken off you later! Compensation should be paid for improvements not land. ( we could lose 15000 acres to national park and only be paid for 10 to 12 ks of fencing) During our lease renewal inspection we had to change many land and timber types on the Government maps due to inaccurate vegetation mapping. The DelbassieAgreement and vegetation mapping needs to be reviewed.
- Security of tenure and ability to look after our Mulga and pastures are essential to our future. We need to be able to harvest mulga as a drought feed with as little beurocratic interferences as possible. We quite often have to start feeding before drought declaration because the Government is scared to declare drought due to ongoing cost to Government. ( mulga harvested in 1993 at 80% now ready to be harvested again) That same country now has a big body of feed. Unharvested area nearby has only 50% of grass. There needs to be more studies done into pasture degradation of mulga lands. If left untouched mulga will choke out all grasses and become a mono culture.

## Preferences

Secure tenure- freehold or better leases. Mulga harvesting permits to be included in lease with thinning of young trees being more available. When mulga harvesting only being allowed to take 40% does not allow for adequate pasture growth. In my opinion we should be allowed to harvest 60-70% especially in thick mulga.

Hope this submission will be of some help to your committee

Tim and Meredith Ecroyd

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