

From: [Dale Perkes](#)
To: [State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee](#)
Subject: land tenure submission
Date: Friday, 3 August 2012 1:50:34 PM
Attachments: [harvesting and grazing letter.docx](#)

I would like to make a submission on land tenure.

Our family consisting of myself Dale Perkes my mother Jackie Perkes and my father Jeff Perkes hold several leases which include an SGP on state forest 194 and 2 occupational licenses 567 and 569. We have been trying to secure a better tenure over the ol's for some years with no success, the last offer from the previous labor government was a lease for 20 years then after that it would be put into national park estate.

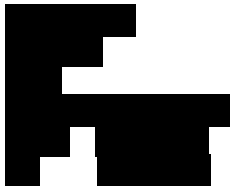
This land has been in our family for generations as it was taken up in 1874, so there has been continual use for the last 138 years.

The two special grazing permits that we hold were 20 year special leases then turned into 7 year SGP without any consultation, so in turn we halted any future improvements due to the fact of no security.

We would love to see more security over these leases.

I have also attached a letter that i have sent to the minister for agriculture fisheries and forestry.

Thank you Dale perkes

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Dear Hon John Mcveigh

I am Dale Perkes part of a three way partnership with my father Jeff Perkes and mother Jackie Perkes. We have a hardwood saw milling operation on the Atherton tablelands where, until displaced in June 2010 by the previous labour governments green agenda, we sourced our logs from State forest 194 Mt Baldy under a permit issued under the Forestry Act (Sales Permit 086097). At the time we were displaced, we were advised that the State forest 194 was required for the National Park estate. I now understand that the State forest has been converted to Forest Reserve

We were given transition 'leasehold' blocks on a short term basis on "Olivevale" station (located on Cape York, 400km further away than State Forest 194) and "Glen Ruth" station (150km further away than State Forest 194) under sales permit 20100853; which we are currently harvesting on "Olivevale" station now. This displacement has made our sawmilling business suffer. I believe in order for a sawmill to be viable in the long term, we require a combination of short and long haul timber resources, and if possible, a mixture of timber species in order to adequately supply market demand. I advise that my family have been selectively harvesting State forest 194 Mt Baldy area for more than 20 years and progressively had chunks closed down so it has had time to rejuvenate, and if the entire area was given back to us and if worked in conjunction with other timber blocks, such as those above, there will be at least another 20 years of cutting.

Another issue of concern to the investment and growth of our timber business is the current harvest limit of 2000m³ on Cape York. I understand from my discussions with forestry staff over the past few years is that a 2000m³ harvest limit was enforced on the Cape by the previous government, despite the fact that the cape has huge amounts of good hardwood timber suitable for sawmilling.

In addition to the above timber issues, my family has held a lease of State forest 194 for grazing since 1946, and have been custodians of this land for the past 138 years. The previous government has only given us a short term renewal of this lease. I advise that my family has for the last 138 years assisted the government manage this area and that the 7 year extension to our grazing lease offered by the previous government is an insult to our sound management of this land. We also hold occupational licenses 567 and 569 for grazing purposes which adjoin state forest 194 and have been managed by our family since 1874.

I understand that the LNP government has committed to restoring access to native forest timber for the timber industry and are supportive of grazing in these forests. I therefore request that the minister:

- Restores long term access to StateForest 194 (an other available ex state forest areas on/surrounding the tablelands) for my family owned sawmill business
- Abolishes the ridiculous 2000m³ harvest limit on cape york

- Seriously review the previous governments short term grazing lease over Mt Baldy State forest and issue a more suitable grazing tenure over this area for a duration of 50 years .

I also understand that other sawmilling businesses are suffering, Mr Peter Davis of Workmatters Pty Ltd shares the above timber access concerns.

I would love to have the opportunity to discuss this further as there are so many factors it is hard to put all into one letter.

Thank you Dale Perkes

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