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The Research Director
State Development
Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

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RE: Inquiry into future and continued relevance of Government land tenure across Queensland

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Parliamentary Inquiry into ‘the Future and Continued Relevance of Government Land Tenure across Queensland.’

As a primary producer, my future business is predicated on secure tenure and regulation.

Below, I have detailed my concerns and issues associated with my tenure and attempted to provide some suggested methods through which these could be addressed.

Our Enterprise

Our enterprise is beef cattle.

My family holds the following tenure types:

Freehold – Bawnduggie Lot 10 Parish of Jarrah
Storybrook Lot 16 Parish of Cadarga
Special Leases – Lot 11,2,3,5, & 6 Parish of Jarrah

Our family has held most of this country since 1935.

Four generations have managed it to the best of our abilities and younger generations remain interested in running this property.

Our Tenure Issues and Suggestions

Our main concerns are the loss of rights on freehold land; the duration of basic terms of leases and the restriction of the right to maintain previously cleared land on leases.

On some of our special leases, the land was treated up to 3 times but under recent labour governments we have had to cease maintaining this land. This has contributed to cutting our stocking rates and viability, as well as providing a haven for wild pigs, dingoes, and other vermin causing concern on our freehold land as well.

In addition, if we were able to have greater security over our tenure, it would encourage investment in these lands, which would in turn enhance agricultural production and economic productivity. Concerns about future tenure of leasehold lands have been of concern in recent years. Opportunities to increase the term of leases or to freehold further land would be welcome and would be considered so long as the cost wasn't too high.

We realize that times and concerns have changed but safe and reliable guardianship of the land has been and will continue to be a priority for our family past, present and future.

Yours faithfully

Robert John Plant