



All correspondence to be
addressed to the
Chief Executive Officer
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www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au

Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
inquiry into Government Land Tenure across Queensland

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee.

Local Government Reserves

Substantial local government infrastructure is currently located on State Government land in the form of reserves. These reserves restrict the use for which the land may be used.

Barcaldine Regional Council is trustee for many reserves including:

Reserve for Town Water Facility
Reserve for Town
Reserve for Sewerage
Reserve for Showground
Reserve for Recreation (eg Swimming Pool, Racecourse etc)
Reserve for Local Government (Town Hall, Library and Administration)
Reserve for Airport
Reserve for Camping and Water
Reserve for Pound
Reserve for Waste Disposal
Reserve for Cemetery
Reserve for Cultural Purposes (eg Museums)

Council has substantial community infrastructure located on these reserves. However Council does not own the land. The land cannot be used for any other purpose due to the nature of this infrastructure. This raises a number of issues for local government:

1. Council requires permission from the State as part of the Development Approvals process for any improvements on the land. This delays the DA process for no beneficial purpose. Examples of this include extensions to the airport terminal in Barcaldine and construction of a skatepark in the town park in Barcaldine. These are local matters but which require State Government approval as the owner of the land.
2. When issues arise relating to whether the land is being used in contradiction to its stated purpose, the State also becomes involved. An example of this is the Secondary Use of Showgrounds Policy controlling the use of showgrounds for camping purposes.
3. Council is investing substantial sums of money into infrastructure on land that it does not own. There is no security of tenure for Council.

***Recommendation:* That reserves used for local government infrastructure be converted to freehold land and the ownership be transferred to the relevant local government.**

Vacant Crown Land

The town of Alpha is in the heart of the Galilee Basin mining province. Council requires additional land for the development of community infrastructure due to there being minimal freehold land available in and around the town. There is sufficient crown land in the form of vacant reserve land and unallocated state land that could be used for community infrastructure. However the process for accessing this land takes a minimum of two years and may be costly.

Recommendation: That the State Government implements a streamlined process for the release of vacant crown land in resource regions for the purpose of community development by local government.



D A Howard
Chief Executive Officer