

**From:** [Lauren Hewitt](#)  
**To:** [State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission: Bruce Lord  
**Date:** Friday, 3 August 2012 3:55:40 PM

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The Research Director

State Development

Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

## RE: Inquiry into the 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.

### **My Enterprise**

· **I hold the following tenure type/s**

- Special Lease

· **My primary production includes**

- Cattle

### **My Tenure Issues**

· **I believe that the following conditions or actions by Government have affected my ability to manage this land effectively**

- Living Areas Policy
- Duration of lease term

- Other

· **This issue/s have affected my enterprise because:**

Uncertainty over non-renewal of existing grazing leases over State Forest land under the SEQ Forest Agreement is a major challenge to the ongoing viability of our family's grazing enterprise.

The potential loss of grazing within State Forests which has been sustainably managed for over 80 years, would significantly impact on the viability of 3 families involved in the business.

A further issue creating uncertainty for future business operations is that current leases over adjoining land have different expiry dates with some improvements ( yards, water points ) used to service more than one lease, located on an earlier expiring lease.

In the last 20 years the change from multiple use State Forests managed for native forest production and grazing under former Governments to conservation purposes has seen a reduction in grazing potential and a general decline in environmental values.

The lock-up mentality and tenure conservation for political purposes of recent years has done nothing to improve the condition of affected woodland and forest communities because of a lack of active management of weeds, pests and appropriate fire management, which all impact on neighbouring landholders.

It is interesting that some of the initial assessments conducted in the RFA process recognised the considerable ecological values of State Forests across SEQ many of which had a long history of sustainable grazing and native timber management under former the DPI working with local landholders.

The other impact of non-renewal of grazing leases is on the wider community with any loss of viability of individual grazing enterprises impacting on local businesses, services ( schools ) and social fabric of rural communities as well as direct losses of revenue to local Councils ( through rates) and Government ( through rent ).

· **My suggested solutions to rectify this issue/s are:**

1. State Government to review current grazing leases and offer lease renewals for minimum of 20 years to enable long term certainty for grazing enterprises and continued sustainable land management of State Forests.

2. State Government to review current grazing leases and work with lessees who have multiple leases to consolidate lease areas and terms to enable certainty and consistency for landholders practically managing these areas and for streamlining Government administration.

3. Government to practice good neighbour policy in terms of shared boundary infrastructure ( fencing, firebreaks) and management of pests and weeds.

4. Government to provide compensation for any improvements if leases are terminated .

5. Government to halt any further tenure conversions and support managed multiple uses( grazing, selective native harvesting, beekeeping, recreation and ecotourism )as legitimate sustainable uses alongside conservation in appropriate parts of the State Forest estate for the environmental, economic and social benefits of all Queenslanders. Government would also need to review previous tenure conversions, management changes under SEQ Forest Agreement.

6. AgForce to strongly advocate the above suggestions to Government at every opportunity to ensure ongoing sustainable management of State Forests and viability of grazing enterprises, local communities, the beef industry and other forest dependant industries.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this significant inquiry.

Best regards,

## My Contact Details

- **Full Name**

Bruce Lord

- **E-mail**

[REDACTED]

- **Address**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Phone Number**

[REDACTED]