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24 August 2012

Dear Mr Malone,

Re: CQUniversity Land Tenure – Rockhampton and Bundaberg Campuses

I refer to our discussions in Mackay, Thursday 16th August 2012, relating to your role as the Chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee, and specifically that Committee's *Inquiry into the future and continued relevance of Government land tenure across Queensland*. I am delighted to know that this inquiry is underway, because at times we as a University have been significantly hindered by tenure arrangements which apply to some of our campus operations. I understand that submissions to this enquiry have now closed, however I am most grateful for the opportunity to present our case to you as Chair of the Committee.

As you would be aware, CQUniversity operates regional Queensland campuses in Mackay, Rockhampton, Emerald, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Noosa, in addition to a recently opened Supported Distance Study facility in Cairns, and our Metropolitan operations. Two of our campuses - Rockhampton and Bundaberg - operate on tenured land arrangements. This has proven to be a frustrating hindrance to the growth and development of these campuses as we seek to engage with the community through new channels that do not necessarily fit within the traditional parameters of 'University Business' (ie, community partnerships, educational initiatives with a commercial scope, or private service providers such as cafes, hair salons or other small enterprises etc...).

Given the opportunity, the Rockhampton and Bundaberg Communities would be far better served by these campuses operating under freehold status.

To date, growing and maintaining operations under the tenure arrangements in Rockhampton and Bundaberg has been problematic, due to the lengthy processes and bureaucratic red (and green) tape of current tenure arrangements. This has led to project delays, additional costs and reduced capacity to react to Community need, which has had a significant impact on CQUniversity's ambitious growth agenda. It also restricts our ability to autonomously develop our campuses away from the traditional, dated campus model to the newer, more modern focus of community and business integration within the "campus village", as many universities are now seeking to do, some rather successfully.

For instance;

Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) centre - Rockhampton campus

CQUniversity invited CQID to establish its new centre at the Rockhampton campus to give the local indigenous community greater links and opportunities into higher education. However the operations of this essential Indigenous employment and welfare service provider experienced

significant disruptions due to the restrictive nature of the land tenure arrangements, which prolonged the process of approving, constructing and relocating CQID to CQUniversity Rockhampton. A Freehold tenure would have avoided these costly and disruptive delays, and the benefits to the local indigenous community would have begun to flow much sooner without interruption.

AEIOU Centre – Bundaberg Campus

The AEIOU Foundation is a not-for-profit early intervention service provider for children with Autism. It sought to establish a Bundaberg AEIOU Centre at the CQUniversity campus, with Queensland Government funding, to foster greater ties with university research into understanding autism and to create interaction experiences for students studying Education and Allied Health courses. The construction of this centre and the delivery of its services met with considerable delays due to the restrictive nature of CQUniversity's land tenure arrangements. Again, freehold tenure would have avoided these delays.

I believe the ideal solution for CQUniversity and the communities we serve would be for current land tenure arrangements at the Rockhampton and Bundaberg campuses to be converted to freehold ownership. Previously CQUniversity had sought the mechanisms of a ULDA development to obtain freehold status over a portion of its Rockhampton campus (an initiative that essentially has now been 'retired'). However a conversion to freehold would be a far superior outcome for CQUniversity and the Rockhampton community, should it be offered.

I understand that the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee will be holding a public hearing as part of its inquiry into government land tenure in Rockhampton on the 29th August. CQUniversity intends to attend this hearing to put forward a position on behalf of our Rockhampton and Bundaberg communities. In the meantime, we would welcome your consideration and feedback.

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to present CQUniversity's view regarding the land tenure situation of its campuses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Bowman." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Scott Bowman
Vice-Chancellor & President