

# BOORARA STATION HUNGERFORD

16/03/2022

To whom it may concern

I have been asked to give an account of the sale of Boorara Station via Hungerford Qld to National Parks and Wildlife Service Qld to join to the existing Currawinya National Park and as a result beekeeping being banned there.

Firstly let me give a little background to our beekeeping business.

We run a family business operating around 2000 beehives for honey production and contract pollination services and employing several people.

In 2012 John Sloss handed the beekeeping rights of Boorara over to us as I had young sons employed in the business and they intend to keep the business operating for years to come.

In 2013 Borrara Station was sold to QPWS and over the next couple of years we tried to gain access to the property but to no avail.

This was the information given to QPWS.

We had a statutory declaration signed by John Sloss to say he had carried out yearly beekeeping operations on the property since 1974 except in extreme drought years.

We supplied a letter from Leighton Clark the former owner of Boorara Station to say that beekeeping had been carried out on the property during his ownership.

We personally gave GPS co-ordinances of the apiary sites we had used and also met with a QPWS ranger on site and drove around the property and inspected the apiary sites that had been used over the years. The ranger took photos of each site. After the inspection I asked the ranger if this is what he expected to see as evidence of used apiary sites, his reply was he expected to see an apiary site marker peg to which I replied saying we never use apiary site marker pegs on private property.

At the end of the day we were denied access and were simply told that there was insufficient evidence that beekeeping had ever taken place on Boorara Station. If this was truly the case that proves to me that after 40 years of

beekeeping on the property as beekeepers we have not left any footprint or caused any harm to the environment. So why couldn't beekeeping continue?

The apicultural value of Boorara Station along with many of those channel country properties is the much sort after Yapunyah tree. Boorara also is host to numerous shrubbery which comes into bloom from July onwards and is very beneficial in building bees up in readiness for spring pollination contracts such as almonds, avocados, macadamias, apples and stonefruits.

Your Sincerely

On behalf of Ruge Honey

Rodney Ruge

