



The Law Society
of New South Wales

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26 February 2009

The Hon. Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands
Level 34, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

Conversion of Crown Perpetual Leases to Freehold

I am writing to you at the request of the Law Society's Rural Issues Committee (Committee).

The Committee has previously urged the Government to review the current regime for the conversion of Crown perpetual leases to freehold in view of economic hardships brought about by the acknowledged worst drought on record. To assist rural landholders through those difficult times you have agreed to a number of concessions in the past, including extending the time period to lodge applications to purchase holdings by leaseholders who are trying to regain financial stability.

I note that the current date for landowners to buy their Crown perpetual leases at a discounted rate is 9 March 2009.

The Committee urges that you consider further concessions for struggling landholders who are now also dealing with the current economic downturn.

I request that you extend the current conversion date to allow additional time within which eligible Crown perpetual leaseholders can lodge applications for purchase of their holdings at the discounted rate to 30 June 2010.

I await your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Catanzariti
President



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New South Wales is a
constituent body of the
Law Council
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