

**Submission
No 157**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Soilco Pty Ltd & Australian Organics Recycling Association Ltd

Date received: 29 July 2016

Re: Crown Road Purchasing Scheme – Our Application 16/04830, Account W568259

Owner – AF & MA Emery

Lot 6, DP606051

Attachments

1. Initial Application 19th May 2016
2. Roads Email response dated 21st July 2016
3. Email request to accelerate the process dated 19th July 2016

Dear Gareth and Paul,

I write to bring to your attention the workings of the Crown Land purchasing program that is currently in operation.

Our 2 adjacent neighbours and myself have submitted an application for the purchase of a 'Crown Road' on our lots adjacent to the Shoalhaven River in Longreach. Attached is the correspondence and copy of our application.

You may be surprised to be notified that the current waiting list for this process to conclude is currently 5 to 6 years. We were initially advised that the application would take approximately 18 months.

Practically speaking you cannot make any realistic plans (Such as DA) on such an extended timeline. Why would you incur now the significant cost in developing an application when the possible conclusion, which is not known, is so far into the future as to be unworkable.

We have outlined briefly our case why we wish to purchase this area – in essence to make better use of the land and for sound business reasons and employment options. Of course we would expect that the revenue earned by this buy-back scheme is also a desirable outcome for the State in these tough economic times.

It is not my purpose in this letter to argue our case, but to highlight the impractical nature of the schemes timeline to conclusion process, and to seek your assistance as to how (the process) it can be expedited, and without incurring the many thousands of dollars of personal expenditure that would happen if we follow the advice offered by the Department. Again the outcome is not assured were we to follow their advice and incur the upfront cost.

We appreciate the constraints that government departments operate under and the need for due process and consultation to occur. However, a timeline of this nature makes a mockery of what the scheme is attempting to achieve. It surely calls into question the overall efficiency of it and how is it possible that such a delay can exist in today's modern times? When one compares our simple situation of repurchasing what are effectively lines on a map, to another topical recent item in the press regarding closure of an industry in 1 year, we are left wondering how the gap in time of the 2 vastly different situations is possible?

I am happy for this letter and attachments to be included in any Crown Lands Review and / or to meet and to discuss further the above situation.

I trust that having made you aware of what is currently occurring, steps can be taken to speed up the process into a more realistic time frame.

On behalf of the other owners and myself, we would appreciate any action that you are able to implement in this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Emery

Director

Soilco Pty Ltd & Australian Organics Recycling Association Ltd