

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

C1454. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Lands

I refer to section 9.3.6 of the Shire of East Pilbara minutes dated 28 October, 2016; a request for Council Support by the Department of Lands, and ask:

1. Why is the Department of Lands seeking freehold conversion of 9,925ha of land on behalf of a private corporation?
2. Is it normal practice for the Department of Lands to behave this way on behalf of a private corporation?
3. Is it normal practice for Pastoral leases to be converted to freehold?
4. If yes to (2) or (3) please outline other instances where this kind of practice has occurred.

Answer

1. The Department of Lands (DoL) received an application for the freehold conversion of portion of Pardoo Pastoral Lease and reserve land under the Land Tenure Pathway for Irrigated Agriculture (LTPIA). The LTPIA is part of the Water for Food Project and is a key component of the State Government's broader Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture initiative. This pathway was approved by Cabinet in August 2015.
2. It is normal practice for the DoL to release crown land for economic, social and community benefit. It is a requirement to refer the proposal to the Local Government Authority (LGA) under s14 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA).
3. No, it is not possible to freehold entire Pastoral Leases, however it is 'normal practice' to freehold or lease portions of Pastoral Leases for more intensive activities.
4. In relation to the LTPIA, the DoL has received two other proposals to freehold portions of pastoral stations being:
 - Gogo Station
 - Mowanjum Station

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