



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: FTO-00960, 2020626

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10 OCT 2012

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 13 September 2012 regarding the petition number 1971-12, relating to the Bididi Bididi Community Advancement Co-operative Society Limited (the Society), tabled in Parliament on 12 September 2012.

I can advise the Society is registered under the *Cooperatives Act 1997* (the Act) which is administered by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The Act provides the rules of a cooperative have the effect of a contract under seal between the cooperative and each member. The Commissioner for Fair Trading has confirmed the rules of the Society provide that the board may, at its discretion, refuse an application for membership and need not assign reasons for the refusal.

The ongoing management of the society, including the determination of membership is the responsibility of the duly elected board of directors, subject to the provisions of the Act, the *Cooperatives Regulation 1997* and the rules of the society.

The Commissioner has advised that Ms Yvonne Canendo signed a tenancy agreement with the Society on 3 January 2007, which states it is an express term of the agreement that the tenants shall, at the commencement of the agreement and throughout its duration, be a member of the Society and should the person cease to be a member of the Society during the term of the tenancy, then the Society will be entitled to take steps to have the tenants removed from the subject premises. Ms Canendo was expelled as a member by a special resolution of the members passed by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting held on 29 April 2011.

The matter of Ms Canendo's tenancy has also been the subject of proceedings in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Consequentially, there is no provision in legislation which allows me to intervene in any decision made in relation to the tenancy matter.

(2)

The Commissioner has advised an election of the board was held at the annual general meeting of the society on 12 December 2011, where an audited financial return was presented to the members of the Society.

I understand the Society is currently meeting the regulatory requirements of the Act and does not believe circumstances exist which warrant an investigation into the daily management of the Society.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**JARROD BLEIJIE MP**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice