



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

---

Our ref: MC13/197

NL 310513

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

**17 JUN 2013**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2013 about petition 2064-13 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 23 May 2013.

The petition requests the House to put the government's Mary Valley landholdings on the open market as this will get the best result for all Queenslanders. The petition notes putting the properties on the open market will not preclude the original owners from purchasing their properties back.

Over the last 12 months the government has consistently articulated its policy position and actions to develop productive, stable and sustainable communities and economies across the Mary Valley. I also note my previous response on 14 February 2013 to a Question without Notice about this matter from the sponsoring member of the petition.

The *Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy* was released in July 2012 and outlines programs of economic development, divestment, enabling and property portfolio management to deliver government's objectives for the Mary Valley community.

The economic development and divestment programs are the focus for disposal activities. The economic development program seeks to facilitate enterprise-related transactions, with the divestment program managing the controlled disposal of other properties.

A number of sales activities have already occurred under the divestment program. As at 31 May 2013, over 30 properties have either settled or are under contract following open market activities which have included two auctions and multiple listings.

Open listing of all properties is one way of returning government-owned land to private ownership. However, it does not address the current issues in the Valley and the legacy of the Traveston Dam proposal.

Level 12 Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15009 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4600**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3210 2185**  
**Email [deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)**

Accordingly, a core component of our divestment program is to provide sitting tenants the opportunity to purchase their property, which readily supports community and labour market stability. The Tenant Purchase Scheme commenced on 1 May 2013 and invites sitting tenants to register their interest in buying the properties they currently lease.

The registration period for the scheme has now closed with over 100 registrations received. Offers to proceed to purchase will be made to eligible applicants from July 2013 onwards, delivering on our commitment to give long-term Mary Valley tenants an option to purchase Mary Valley property. There will be ongoing opportunities for all Queenslanders to purchase Mary Valley properties through future open listings, auctions and tenders.

A principal real estate agent has been appointed to coordinate the marketing and sale of properties under the divestment program. This allows the government to focus its attention on the economic development program, including development proposals.

Over 170 registrations have been received for economic development proposals under the economic development program. Three lucrative development proposals have been secured in 2013 as part of this process. Between them Higher Ground, Cedar Hill and Templeton Farming Enterprise have the potential to generate over 50 full-time jobs, as well as dozens of seasonal jobs. They will also bring flow-on business to the Mary Valley from which the whole community can benefit.

The combination of the government's economic development program, the Tenant Purchase Scheme and open listings, is delivering economic and community revitalisation dividends for the Mary Valley. We will continue to utilise various methods of disposal to achieve our objectives.

If you require any further information, Jeff Popp in my office will assist and can be contacted on 3224 4600.

Yours sincerely



**JEFF SEENEY MP**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning**