



Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Science and Innovation

Ref: COM 05601-2015

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13 AUG 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 2424-15 regarding the Department of Housing and Public Works property at 28 Wirraway Parade, Inala, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly and tabled in the House on 17 July 2015.

On 21 July 2015, I attended a meeting with Mr Damien Walker, Acting Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works and members of the South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre. The members were advised that the department is unable to 'gift or grant' the site of 28 Wirraway Parade, as the land is held under the *Housing Act 2003* and therefore can only be granted to organisations that provide a housing service.

The opportunity for the organisation to acquire the property at current market value was discussed. The Legal Centre representatives were also informed that, should they not be in a position to acquire the property, the department intends to sell the land on the open market, with the revenue raised from the sale being reinvested into the provision of additional social housing.

Given these intentions, the department is not in a position to offer a new 20-year lease over the land, nor to fund the demolition or acquisition of a new demountable. I understand that the demountable buildings were donated to the Legal Centre by the Queensland Law Society, and are not owned by the department.

The department supports the work that the Legal Centre provides to the local community, and will seek to maintain the current arrangement at 28 Wirraway Parade for as long as is possible. To this end, the department will work with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to identify alternative accommodation options.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Leisa Liggett, Principal Property Officer, Portfolio Development, Capital and Assets, Department of Housing and Public Works on (07) 3227 6061.

Yours sincerely

Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works and
Minister for Science and Innovation