

James Gordon

Select Committee into Certain Aspects of Queensland Government  
Administration  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Committee members,

Please accept this as a submission to the Select Committee on Certain Aspects of Queensland Government Administration related to Commonwealth Government Affairs.

I am a landholder affected by a proposed rail line corridor in the Galilee Basin State Development Area in Queensland. Our family cattle grazing property is approximately 50 km South West of Bowen or Abbot Point and at risk of compulsory acquisition for a Aurizon GVK Hancock proposed rail line at some indeterminate point in the future. The rail line will bisect the property severely disrupting the grazing operations and interrupting the general functioning of the property.

To date there has been no communication from the project proponents at all. Even though Aurizon GVK Hancock quite regularly release a media statement saying that negotiations with affected landholders have progressed well. As yet, we have no exact idea of what the project will be or how exactly it will affect us. There has been no discussion on stock crossings, vehicle crossings, fence and water pipeline adjustment etc. On the map released by the Qld government of the GBSDA our house is in the actual Red SDA corridor. We imagine there will be some very major impacts on the general station infrastructure if a heavy haulage rail line is to go through the main station complex and there will quite a few details that will need to be considered. However, this has not started to happen.

The silence from the project proponents is deafening and at the same time very scary.

I have serious concerns about the way Queensland Government is going about the development of the Galilee Basin with the application of a State Development Area. I am concerned that the state government is going to use the SDA to forego negotiation between the project proponents and the landholders. The Qld Government previously had the power to compulsorily acquire land for development IF negotiation between parties could not reach resolution. I fail to see the necessity of the SDA now unless it is to be used to coerce or force landholders to accept unfavourable terms.

Yours Sincerely,

James Gordon