

13 August 2020

Our ref: MD WD Gen MC

The Hon Cameron Dick
Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Treasurer and Minister

Queensland Future Fund – transfer of the Queensland Titles Registry

I write to express my concerns in relation to the decision announced by media release on 23 July 2020 to transfer the Titles Registry to the Queensland Future Fund ('Update on Queensland fiscal position').

Queensland Law Society (QLS) considers that it is essential that the Titles Registry remains in public hands as a vital service to the Queensland public.

QLS has watched with concern as other states have sold or licenced their titles registries. Any proposal to do the same in Queensland will justifiably meet significant resistance from the legal profession, as it has in other jurisdictions.

The considerable data about land and individuals held by the Titles Office must continue to be held securely for the benefit of the public.

The media release indicates your intention that the Registry will be kept in public hands. This public commitment is welcomed, however QLS is concerned that the proposed shift to the Queensland Future Fund could jeopardise public confidence in the security of land ownership registration throughout the state.

The Titles Registry is the safeguard of the integrity of land ownership for all Queenslanders as registration of title gives legal ownership under our Torrens system. The Torrens system is a land registration and transfer system in which a state creates and maintains a register of land holdings, which serves as the conclusive evidence of the person recorded on the register as the owner.

Queensland's legal profession is a key stakeholder in major decisions affecting the Titles Registry and its ability to continue to serve the public.

QLS looks forward to engaging in the consultation you have foreshadowed about the best way to transition the Titles Registry.

Queensland Future Fund – transfer of the Queensland Titles Registry

I would be grateful if you would contact Mr Matt Dunn (General Manager – Advocacy, Guidance and Governance, phone 07 3842 5914 or m.dunn@qls.com.au) to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the next steps in the transfer of the Titles Registry.

Yours faithfully



Luke Murphy
President