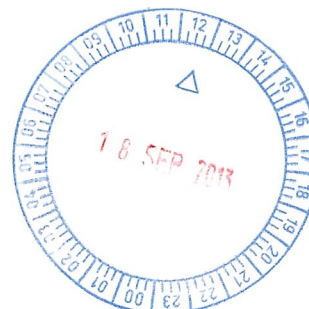




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**Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**

Your Ref: PAL
Our Ref: 34-27609



Hon Liz Behjat MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Ms Lauren Mesiti

Dear Mrs Behjat

INQUIRY INTO PASTORAL LEASES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 August 2013 requesting a written submission on the matters referred to in the terms of reference for the Inquiry into Pastoral Leases in Western Australia (the Inquiry).

The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) is a statutory body established under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* (AAPA Act). The ALT has a statutory responsibility under the AAPA Act to carry out functions, hold and manage land, undertake consultations, and generally represent the interests of Aboriginal people in relation to its estate.

The ALT currently holds six pastoral leases (the Leases) in Western Australia, with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) responsible for the day to day management of the Leases.

Whilst the ALT and DAA does not intend to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration, I would like to take this opportunity to advise that the Leases provide economic opportunities for Aboriginal people. Therefore, to ensure that the Leases are not lost to the local Aboriginal communities, the ALT is endeavouring to comply with the renewal conditions and appropriate pastoral management.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please contact Ms Debra Bentley, Chief Land Officer, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, on (08) 6551 8000 or by email at Debra.Bentley@daa.wa.gov.au.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to provide a submission on the Inquiry.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

13 SEP 2013