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Department of  
Environment and Resource  
Management

4<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Mr Charles Bowman and  
Mrs Thelma E M Bowman  
20 Finnegan Street  
DUNWICH QLD 4183

Dear Mr and Mrs Bowman

**RE: Permit to Occupy – Lot A on AP19794 (PO 0/234048), Lot B on AP19795 (PO 0/234049), Lots C (PO 0/234050) & D on AP19796 (PO 0/234051) Parish of Minjerriba, County of Stanley Located: South of Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island**

The Queensland Park and Wildlife Division of the department have advised of the intention to include land within Nature Conservation Act tenure.

The land to be included will affect the locations of Permits to Occupy being 234048, 234049, 234050 and 234051 in which you are the registered permittees. The beehive locations are proposed to be included within Nature Conservation Act tenure and as a result the continuing use of the sites is not supported.

When the land is gazetted as Nature Conservation Act tenure the Permits to Occupy cannot continue as Land Act tenures.

It is proposed to cancel the Permits to Occupy as mentioned above so the land can be gazetted as Nature Conservation Act tenure.

Prior to endorsing a final decision on the matter and within consideration to the principals of Natural Justice, the Department extends an opportunity for you to make further representation in writing as to why the permits should be not cancelled by 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

In the event that the Department does not receive a written response from you by 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011, then a decision will be made and a formal notice of the decision will be forwarded to you.

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**To** Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)

**From** Charles and Thelma Bowman

20 Finnegan Street  
Dunwich QLD 4183

**Re** Cancellation of our permits to occupy on North Stradbroke Island

**Your Reference:** 2011/001848

Dear DERM,

In your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 you make it crystal clear that you are cancelling our permits to occupy, i.e. our bee sites on North Stradbroke Island. You invite us to reply as to why you should not take such action. Although your letter leaves me to believe that the decision has been made and my reply is futile, never the less I present some powerful reasons why your decision is not in the best interests of the nation.

**Why bee keepers should have controlled access to all public lands including National parks in Queensland as in other states.**

It is generally known that the honey bee is threatened worldwide. Current threats in Australia are the small hive beetle, and the Asian honey bee. A future threat is the varroa destructor mite, already in NZ, PNG, Solomon Islands and the rest of the world. Our quarantine inspection service has a very poor record of keeping such pests out- thus it is not a question of if but when we have the mite.

The loss of our bee keeping industry will have a devastating effect on Australia's life style. Not from the loss of \$80 million worth of honey but the loss of \$5 Billion dollars worth of fruit and vegetables. No honey bees no pollinators. Natural pollinators will only account for one third of the current crop. Our farmers would not be paying \$150 per hive for honey bees for the flowering period if it were not so.

As more and more of the Australian bush is locked up in National parks – conservation parks and reserves the bee keepers have a major resource problem. Many birds and animals have become extinct or are severely threatened from habitat destruction. Bees are no different; locking up the habitat is the same as habitat destruction.

Our salvation lies in early detection and bee sites in remote valleys and creeks like North Stradbroke Island. Our small army of hobby bee keepers with less than 300 hives man our front line. Being hobbyists and not relying on or expecting any income from the bees they assist our D.P.I. when a problem arises. We are in this hobbyist group and we operate one of the D.P.I. surveillance hives at Pt Lookout to give an early warning if bee's carrying the mite leave an approaching ship. This is voluntary work for the good of the industry and our community.

When the mite is detected in any of the surveillance hives at our ports and along the coast it will be the hives deep in the bush or on an island that will be our salvation. These hives are safe from contact with mite carrying bees and obviously a restricted area will contain the invasion.

Our surveillance hive will be in a National park and obviously will have to go.

### How bees and bee keepers are good for parks.

Bee keepers always use existing tracks and fire trails to access their bee sites. Our experience has been that often we are the first to clear fallen timber and re-open a fire trail.

The bees are the world's best pollinators. For a radius of one kilometre the bush is totally pollinated. All seeds produced are fertile and will grow when nature gives them a chance.

The beekeepers can become the eyes and ears of the parks. Together with the rangers they help with early detection of problems.

Neither the bees nor the beekeepers cause any problems in our parks.

### Jelly Bush = A Miracle Honey

The Jelly Bush. A member of the Leptospermum family, grows on the shores of our lagoons. That area that is wet when the lagoon is in flood and dry when the lagoon is low.



Our label perhaps explains the uses we can put this honey too.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we produce a natural antibiotic honey and sell it at a price that is half the competition. This is only achieved by us being hobbyists and not wishing to profit from our hobby. Over the years we have seen many miracle cures affected by our honey. To kill off this natural antibiotic that cures so many of our customers would be nothing less than a crime against humanity.

## The importance of Organic Honey and its value to Ecotourism

Our honey is truly organic and as hobbyists we are constantly on the lookout for better methods to insure purity. Our customers for honey sales are both locals and tourists. We have a stall at our Pt Lookout community markets and are an important part of ecotourism. Many visitors make the comment that they come just for our honey- I am sure the surf and sand play a large part. The market is held only on the school holidays and long weekends when the tourists swell our numbers.

To be organic we need to situate our hives at least two kilometres from human habitation. 80% of the island is to be National park. This is the uninhabited part. The remaining 20% includes the three villages. Put a 2k buffer around them and take future residential expansion and we have nothing left.

If you go ahead we will not attend the market – no organic honey. Your minister says that she will offer other sites - where???

## Your Ministers Criticism of “you and I”

In Monday's 25/4/2011 Australian Newspaper on page 3 your minister says that your letter is badly worded and we have misinterpreted it. Well you and I know that was not so. Your letter is crystal clear and we know exactly what it means

## Natural Justice

Your letter invites me to reply in the principals of natural justice, well let's consider this. The decision to lock bees out of National parks was made by Premier Beattie. His reasons lacked credibility but that never stopped politicians before. As there were many bee keepers in National parks he set a sunset clause – OUT BY 2027.

Well at the time of the Beattie announcement we also had established sites on Stradbroke Island including the ones you are cancelling. So where is the natural justice when bee sites in established parks are to continue until 2027 and just because we are in a new park we must go in 2011?

HOWS THAT FOR NATURAL JUSTICE??

### My ancestors and my rights.

We all have ancestors and from them we inherit certain customs and rights. The most influence comes from our parents and our grandparents. The six people who will most influence who we are.

My grandfather on my mother's side was a member of the Quandamooka people. From him I gained the Aboriginal love of the land and the sense of home. This Island is my home. It is my land and I resent anyone that tries to control my free access to it. I have always embraced the British way because 4 of these 6 people came from Britain. But I have never denied my deep Aboriginal feelings from my mother and Grandfather.

You will understand why I believe that I have a right to embrace and love this island. I hope to be buried here at Dunwich – my home – my land. Together for eternity.

What rights have you to tell me I cannot continue to tend my bees on my island?

### Native Title

At a recent meeting to explain the coming events held at the University lecture room at Dunwich we were assured by your department that nothing would be done before native title was settled. However a plan was issued showing 80% National park and 20% existing villagers and some land the Quandamooka people may have a say over, so much for the federal court.

As a member of the Quandamooka people I have always held the view that we would be duded. The court may recognize the Quandamooka people as traditional owners but then when the press has gone your department will step forward and declare different.

How can a plan be issued before the court's decision. Our Government has no respect for the Quandamooka people or the court. They, with their plan are virtually directing the court as to what its decision should be.

### Mining and its benefits.

For most of my seventy-seven years I have wandered the Stradbroke Island beach and bush. Cried when I witnessed the destruction that preceded the mining. Beamed as I saw the rehabilitation and realized that the land was in better condition than the original. Most of our sites are on mined areas.

Mining has not and never will cause lasting damage to our island. The last sixty-three years of mining has seen the community become more environmentally aware and as a result the government has insisted on rehabilitation of a high standard. The results are a credit to both the miners and the government. As a boy I played on our costal dunes, were the blowing sands left a fractured landscape. This was the result of years of wind and rain on costal dunes containing areas of heavy mineral and native midden heaps.

After mining and rehab our dunes are much smoother, more beautiful and pleasant than ever before.

In an attempt to gain a few green preferences Anna Bligh is set to cause untold human misery and rid our island of 50% of its people.

Even our Quandamooka people will suffer. Just because they are our 1<sup>st</sup> people and have at least 30,000 years of residency they too need education and jobs. As I was forced to do they will have to leave the island for education and jobs. I know what grief this entails.

The economic and humanitarian madness must be stopped.

Please forward your correspondence to Department of Environment and Resource Management, PO Box 1164, Beenleigh Qld 4207 or email [diane.mcquade@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:diane.mcquade@derm.qld.gov.au)

if you require any further information please contact Mr Ken Rogers, Principal Land Officer or Diane McQuade, Acting Senior Land Officer, and please quote reference number 2011/001848 in any future correspondence.

Yours faithfully



**Diane McQuade  
Acting Senior Land Officer  
Beenleigh Office  
South East Region**