

LAA Review Project Team
Property and Construction Division
Department of Finance
Sent via email: LAAreview@finance.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

REVIEW OF THE LANDS ACQUISITION ACT 1989

The Town of Port Hedland (Town) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the review of the *Lands Acquisition Act 1989* (the Act). The following points are made to guide reform and changes to the legislative, policy and administrative functions of the Act:

1. The Town supports reform of the administrative functions of the Act that encourage acquisition by agreement. Consideration should be given to provisions which encourage fairer compensation, greater procedural fairness and increased support for interest holders. Such changes could improve the interest holder's experience and reduce timeframes to resolve compensation claims.
2. Consideration should be given to reforming the Act's review processes to ensure transparency and accountability for interest holders. Current arrangements are generally more complex (involving more steps) than state or territory equivalent legislation. The Town supports changes that maintain fairness but resolve unnecessary confusion of procedural matters relating to the review process.
3. The Town encourages reform in performance tracking. Establishing a government group responsible for land acquisitions which collect and publish whole-of government land acquisition data at an agreed time period, will ensure the performance of government is more readily open to public scrutiny, including the extent to which land is acquired through agreement rather than compulsorily.
4. The Town supports the provision of clear and consistent guidance for interest holders. Recognition of the overlap existing between the planning system and other regulations and policies relating to land acquisition is important for increasing awareness within the community and industry.

Our Ref:

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The Town looks forward to the final release of recommendations for Government consideration in relation to legislative, policy and administrative reforms to the Act. If you have any questions, please contact the Town's Senior Strategic Planning Sandeep Shankar on 9158 9347 or by email epanning@porthedland.wa.gov.au

Yours faithfully



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Manager Town Planning and Development

17 April 2020

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