



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Police  
Minister for Lands  
Minister for Rural Affairs  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

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Tuesday, 31 March 2009

## **FREEHOLD CONVERSION OFFER EXTENDED TO JUNE 2009**

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, has extended the period for perpetual leaseholders to convert to freehold at a special purchase price for the final time.

Mr Kelly said there had been strong support for the Rees Government's Crown land reform program, particularly in difficult times for the rural community and this would result in greater efficiency in administration of public lands.

"Of the original 10,700 eligible perpetual leaseholders, there remains only around 920 that have yet to apply for conversion at the special purchase price.

"I have agreed to extend the period for lodging applications to purchase perpetual leases at the special price for another few months until 31 June 2009.

"Whilst I have previously provided extensions to the special purchase offer for perpetual leases, this extension will be the final opportunity to purchase perpetual leases as all leaseholders have had ample time and notice of the change.

"The Department of Lands wrote to eligible leaseholders last year to encourage them to apply for purchase of their holdings before market based rents would be applied.

"I urge those remaining eligible lessees to take advantage of this extension as the new market based rents, in many cases, are likely to be significantly higher than the special purchase price.

"Market based rents will apply from 1 July 2009 and remember this is the final time that an extension to apply will be granted," Mr Kelly said.

"All applications will undergo a rigorous environmental assessment to ensure that environmental values are safeguarded."

Further information can be obtained from the Department of Lands website at [www.lands.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au), local Crown Lands offices or by phoning 13000 LANDS (52637).