

Dear Members

Have you booked a seat on one of our buses yet, (Call 1300 794000) or organised a car pool to get to Canberra next Tuesday. If you are still asking why let me tell you.



Property Rights belong to all of us, but they are under threat. Across Australia people like you, trying to make a living on the land are asking what it actually means to 'own', or pay the mortgage on, a parcel of farm land.

We buy land to use it to produce food and fibre. Most of us believe that holding the title to the land provides the security we need to invest in the farm. But where has our security gone?

It's constantly being eroded by the action and sometimes inaction of government.

If governments take away our ability to effectively manage our land, our ability to manage the business goes too. If you take away or inhibit our ability to manage native vegetation, weeds, feral animals and to control fire risk – or render us powerless to stop a mining company entering our property and damaging our land and water - our physical, emotional and financial security is threatened.

On Tuesday 2 February, we're rallying because we believe the time for change has never been better. Peter Spencer and his "Tower of Hope" have garnered significant public attention. While we continue to support cases currently in the highest courts of this country, challenging the legislation that allows governments to take away our property rights without "just terms" compensation, is the real battle. Political commitment to constitutional change is what will make a difference for us.

How do you get political change? You show the Government, State or Federal, the votes. Give them big numbers protesting on their front lawn and they see votes – for or against them. This is the pressure we need for change – this is the pressure we need to secure our property rights or compensation for them.

We need your commitment, your presence to get this change. The Association has been saying it for years and it's never been truer than today – together we can make a difference.

I will see you in Canberra next Tuesday 2 February from 10:00am at Magna Carta Place (next to Old Parliament House): ready to march up and make our voices heard at 12noon. It's time to fight for our farms, our food and our future.

Charles Armstrong

P.S – check out our latest YouTube video on the rally here.

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