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Land Register Consultations Working Group  
Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Establishing a National Foreign Ownership Register for Agricultural Land**

I tender the following submission in response to your consultation paper dated November 2012.

I have confined my comments to issues relevant to Land Services Group (LSG), the agency responsible for administering the South Australia Land Information System. The Lands Titles Office is located within LSG.

I confirm that South Australia does not maintain a foreign ownership of land register. The *Foreign Ownership of Land Bill 2012* is however currently before our parliament. It provides for a register administered by the Registrar-General very similar to that existing in Queensland.

There is no sure way to identify what land in South Australia is foreign owned. The initial stocktake of foreign ownership interests will therefore require foreign owners to register their interests within a reasonable timeframe from the commencement of the relevant legislation.

LSG does of course collect land transfer information that would be relevant to a national foreign ownership register, including the purchaser's name, address, consideration and certificate of title reference. Other land information such as the plan/parcel identifier, property location, land area and permitted land use could also be used in populating the register or in generating applicable reports.

All Land Information System data is entered by our staff. If a national foreign ownership register requires LSG to perform additional data entry and/or make IT system changes then funding is an issue that must be addressed.

The working party may also like to consider investigating the collection of relevant data via the proposed National Electronic Conveyancing System.

We look forward to working with you to determine the logistics of how the national register could interact with our existing land registration systems and processes. Ian Gant, Deputy Registrar-General, will be the LSG contact officer.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ian on (08) 8226 1247 if you wish to discuss any aspects of this submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin O'Callaghan  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Land Services Group**

8<sup>th</sup> February 2013