

10 May 2022

P.O. Box 1890
TOOWONG QLD 4066

The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Communities and Housing
By email: communitiesandhousing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

**URGENT: Intervention requested to block eviction
(QCAT 0000693/22)**

Dear Minister Enoch,

I write to you with an urgent request to intervene in the matter I refer to above. A QCAT hearing was held on 26 April 2022 and a Decision was made to issue a Warrant of Termination against me. This Warrant is scheduled to be executed next Monday, 16 May 2022.

Yesterday, I filed an appeal against this Decision on the ground that the hearing was not conducted in a fair and equitable fashion. An application to stay the Decision was also filed. I am asking QCAT to either schedule another hearing or dismiss the application entirely. I ask for your intervention in applying to QCAT for a revocation of the Warrant, and a withdrawal of the original application 0693/22. Given the short timeframes in play here, I need to request that you act urgently.

I wish to place on record my extreme disappointment with the manner in which the Fortitude Valley Service Centre (FVSC) has handled this matter. I have been treated very poorly by this office, with absolute disregard and contempt for my medically diagnosed disability, which they have known about from the very beginning of my tenancy way back in 2016. They have even attempted to use this as a controlling mechanism by demanding that I resume counselling with my psychologist, who was surprised when I contact him about it and considered it unnecessary. Despite more than 12 months of sessions, the Department has not contacted my psychologist at all since demanding that we reengage. This proves in my view that they do not care about my mental health.

The continued bullying, intimidation, harassment, threatening behaviour and condescending attitude of the staff at the FVSC, not to mention the lies both to and about me have had a significant detrimental effect on my mental health. It is my opinion that a duty of care has been breached in this area. On multiple occasions, I have suffered theft of valuable items at the hands of this unruly mob. And now they are seeking to virtually destroy me by evicting me and placing my personal wealth in jeopardy.

All this kerfuffle is over a small amount of transient recyclable material which, in the recent past, was passing through the front yard. I am pleased and proud to advise, as I did in the hearing, that no new material has entered the premises since Christmas 2021, because I have continued to invest in storage for this material. Despite the continuing attempts to sabotage my operation by the FVSC, I was able to clear all the material before Easter. I would have liked to have cleared it much sooner, however, the adverse weather and a stint suffering COVID earlier this year prevented me from making much progress. The loss of my \$4,000 granulator in the February flood event was also a major setback from which I have not yet recovered. Unfortunately, the FVSC was relentless in their pursuit of an eviction, and refused to entertain any concession whatsoever.

I have invested thousands of hours and tens of thousands of dollars building this over the last 2½ years, with almost no outside help, and zero support from government, which I find particularly despicable, especially with all the noise about recycling programs and grants being spouted from government at all levels. Is it fair that my reward for all this is potential homelessness and the loss of nearly all my personal possessions because a few rogue officers at FVSC refuse to pull the blinkers off their eyes and get into the 21st century? Recycling is the future. I am not the only individual doing this kind of thing, and there will be many more like me to follow. I have done my best to reduce the impact on the local area, and with my latest storage facility coming online in February, there is no longer a need to bring material to Taringa.

Queensland has the unenviable reputation of having the lowest recycling rates and the highest landfill use per capita in Australia. Enterprises such as mine are therefore vital if Queensland is to pull its weight nationally. We are being left behind, and the rest of Australia (and, indeed, the world) is watching. Is this what we need in the leadup to the Olympics?

I am no longer merely frustrated by the behaviour of the FVSC; now I'm downright angry about it, and so are many other close neighbours and members of my community. I am considering what legal remedies may be available to me to bring these people to account for their actions over the last three years. This fight has only just begun.

I am not a disruptive or disorderly person. I seek to live in harmony with my community. I have no vices or addictions. Please do whatever you can to stop the persecution being meted out by the FVSC and intervene to stop my eviction.

Yours sincerely,

David Barker
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TARINGA QLD 4068