

## Owned by Australians

A CHINESE developer has purchased more than 3000 ha near Swansea. According to the Foreign Investment Review Board website, "Temporary residents in Australia can invest in new property and must use it as their primary residence. If they are not living in it, the property must be sold." Then it states they can "buy new properties or land in Australia." These confusing statements are concerning in that it appears the Australian Government is opting out from making firm decisions. To me, it is fundamentally wrong properties can be sold to people or businesses from overseas. According to the FIRB, "Student visa holders can purchase properties in Australia." It is one thing for foreigners to lease properties and invest but this is our country and must not be for sale. It appears we are happily selling off the farm. The only people permitted to purchase property should be permanent residents. Even though it will be fraught with loopholes it is way past time the Federal Government bit the bullet and took strict control of property ownership. Australia must be owned only by Australians.

*Mercery*  
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