

ROBSON FAMILY CONFIRM END TO SALE DISCUSSIONS

It is clear to the Robson family that the North Queensland banana industry as a whole would prefer to see their farm closed down, to limit the risk of Panama disease spreading from their farm. Most people in the industry they have spoken to in recent months, have voiced that sentiment.

Whilst the Robsons were not asking for a buy-out of their property, in light of the clear preference of the industry, they were prepared to leave their farm if terms could be agreed.

As a result, the Robsons discussed with the ABGC possible terms of a sale or lease of their property to the ABGC. If that were to occur, the banana plants on their Tully Valley property would have been destroyed and the property kept out of production for the foreseeable future.

Those discussions did not lead to agreement on terms and it became clear that further discussion was unlikely to achieve a positive result.

The Robson family has thought long and hard over this very difficult decision. They have now decided to focus on making the best of their situation.

“At the end of the day, we are better off continuing to farm” said Bevan Robson. “We know the industry wants us to stop farming, but I need to put my family first. If a Panama disease resistant banana is developed in a few months time, we would never be able to get back to where we are now”.

The Robson family wish to thank the ABGC for making the effort to consider and discuss possible terms of a sale or lease of their farm.

Media statement ends.

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This statement has been prepared by Ian Conrad of Conrad Law, on behalf of the Robson family. For further information, please contact Ian Conrad – contact details below.

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