



**Agriculture, Resources and Environment  
Committee  
Inquiry into the  
Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment  
Bill 2013**

**JULY 2013**

Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the peak body representing and uniting 16 of Queensland's rural industry organisations who work on behalf of primary producers across the state. QFF's mission is to secure a sustainable future for Queensland primary producers within a favourable social, economic and political environment by representing the common interests of its member organisations'. QFF's core business centres on resource security; water resources; environment and natural resources; industry development; economics; quarantine and trade.

Our goal is to secure a sustainable and profitable future for our members, as a core growth sector of the economy. Our members include:

- CANEGROWERS,
- Cotton Australia,
- Growcom,
- Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland,
- Queensland Aquaculture Industries Federation,
- Queensland Chicken Growers Association,
- Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation,
- Queensland Chicken Meat Council,
- Queensland United Egg Producers,
- Flower Association of Queensland Inc.,
- Pork Queensland Inc.,
- Australian Organic
- Fitzroy Food and Fibre Association,
- Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited,
- Central Downs Irrigators Limited, and
- Burdekin River Irrigators Area Committee

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission on the *Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013*

QFF represents a significant group of agricultural industries that may be subjected to regulation under the Acts amendments. The comments of the Federation in no way prejudice the opportunity our members may take to provide their own specific contribution to the committee's inquiry.

Further, QFF is supportive of the policy intention of the *Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013* but notes there was no consultation with industry on how these particular Acts were chosen for reform. QFF believes there is another Act that could be brought under this Bill the *Plant Protection Act 1989*.

### **General Comments in response to Bill**

QFF has consistently called for governments to address the burden of red-tape through regulatory reform. QFF supports the goal of the Bill; to reduce business and government costs, through the omission of redundant legislation, implementation of the outcomes of legislative reviews and proposed national arrangements all in the one process.

In developing this response QFF's comments have been kept broad, with the view that specific agricultural commodities that deal directly with the legislation are best placed to deal with the detail of the amendments.

### **Specific comments relating to the eight Acts to be amended within the Bill**

#### ***Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control Act 1966***

QFF supports the amendment to abolish the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Boards and the transfer of the relevant functions to the chief executive of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

#### ***Agriculture Standards Act 1994***

QFF supports the proposed amendment to adequately enforce the national Ruminant Feed Ban (RFB). QFF notes that there have been gaps in the ability for Queensland inspectors to enter vehicles for inspections to check compliance against the provisions of the Act. QFF is supportive of measures that prevent the introduction and/ or control the spread of an exotic disease in Queensland.

#### ***Animal Care and Protection Act 2001***

QFF is supportive of the motion to punish those convicted of animal cruelty offences by the courts. QFF does not oppose the penalties imposed by the courts being raised to act as both a punishment and deterrent.

#### ***Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008***

QFF makes no comment on these amendments.

**Forestry Act 1959**

QFF makes no comment on these amendments.

**Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002**

QFF supports the amendment that replaces the existing requirement for two separate State pest management strategies with the requirement for a single Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy.

**Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994**

QFF previously provided a submission on the mandatory five-year review of the Act in 2010. QFF supported and still supports the broadening of QRAA's role and improvements in QRAA's governance arrangements. QFF believes the current structure requires more flexibility to deal with a wider range of programs. We similarly provided like advice for the 2009 PIPES Review which is a QRAA function. The submissions provided to both of these reviews are available directly from QFF or via website at [www.qff.org.au](http://www.qff.org.au)

**Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936**

QFF supports the amendment to underpin Queensland's biosecurity effort by ensuring that veterinary surgeons be contacted at any time about actual or potential biosecurity threats through participation in the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) scheme.

**Conclusion**

QFF appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Bill. QFF believes that the *Plant Protection Act 1989* affecting the agriculture sector may require review and is committed to working with the Queensland Government in the implementation of these and any new reform opportunities. If you require further information, please contact QFF Sustainable Agriculture Policy Officer *Adam Knapp* on (07) 3837 4747.

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