

QFF MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS

Cotton Australia

Growcom

Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland

Qld Chicken Growers Association

Qld Dairyfarmers' Organisation

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Queensland Chicken Meat Council

Flower Association of Queensland Inc.

Pork Queensland Inc.

Fitzroy Food & Fibre Association

Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

Central Downs Irrigators Limited

Burdekin River Irrigators Area Committee

Emerging Primary Industries Groups

- Australian Organic
- Queensland Aquaculture Industries Federation

6 January 2014

Mr Rob Hansen
 Research Director
 Qld Parliamentary Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
 arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Rob

RE: Submission to the Committte inquiry ino the Biosecurity Bill 2013

Queensland Farmers Federation welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee on the recently tabled Biosecurity Bill 2013

Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the peak body representing and uniting 16 of Queensland's rural industry organizations 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 organizations'. 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 Dairy Farmers' Organization,
- Queensland Chicken Meat Council,
- Queensland United Egg Producers,
- Flower Association of Queensland Inc.,
- Pork Queensland Inc.,
- Biological Farmers of Australia
- Fitzroy Food and Fibre Association,
- Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited,
- Central Downs Irrigators Limited, and
- Burdekin River Irrigators Area Committee

QFF provides this submission without prejudice to any additional submissions provided by our members.

Biosecurity is an issue of significance to QFF and its member organisations. The decision to develop a new Act which proposes to replace a number of pieces of existing legislation and subordinate instruments into one cohesive piece of legislation and to modify a number of other pieces of existing legislation has been seen as a vital step in the effective management of Biosecurity in Queensland.

While there has been limited opportunity for industry to comment directly on the new Biosecurity Bill 2013 it should be noted that industry was involved in a very exhaustive consultation process for the draft exposure of the previous Biosecurity Bill 2011.

While there have been changes made to the new Bill we do not believe they detract from the original intent of the 2011 Bill but in fact provide for some simplification and an improved layout which hopefully will make the document easier to read and understand. There are also some important changes which reduce some regulatory burden.

In examining the explanatory notes there is discussion regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles. Given the significant economic, social, environmental and possible human health impacts that an incursion of an emergency animal or plant disease may have on the state the powers set out in the Bill for rapid action to be taken are essential. A rapid response is critical to reducing the impact of incursions and improving the chances of eradication.

It should be noted that while we may have no major issues with the Bill as it stands the impact of this complex and legislation will not be clear until the associated Regulations and subordinated implementation mechanisms are drafted. This will give a much clearer picture of how the new legislation will impact on industry. Regulation reference groups have been set up with industry to progress the drafting of the new regulations and QFF will remain engaged in this process.

Should the Committee required further information we would be only to happy to assist.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Galligan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Galligan
Chief Executive Officer