



Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 04937/22

30 March 2022

Mr Chris Whiting MP
Chair
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Parliament House
George Street Brisbane
sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Whiting

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2022 regarding consultation for the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation (Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021*.

As noted in the Explanatory Notes for this Amendment Regulation, the Drought Preparedness Grants Scheme is a measure announced in the 2021–22 Queensland State Budget as part of its Drought Assistance and Reform Package (DARP).

The DARP is the culmination of a significant body of reform conducted by the Queensland Government intended to improve the drought preparedness of Queensland primary producers.

This process was initiated with the Queensland Drought Program Review led by an Independent Panel of Mr Charles Burke (former Chief Executive Officer of AgForce) and Ms Ruth Wade (former Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Farmers Federation). This Drought Program Review led to the preparation of a report that informed the DARP. The review included extensive consultation with producers and industry groups. An outline of this consultation can be found at page 49 of the report which is available at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/drought-program-review-report/resource/16b7b036-2068-4ba6-b8d4-edb95fd1c1dd>.

In general, while individual producers and industry groups have their own perspectives on appropriate drought measures, there is broad support for improving drought preparedness generally and for these measures to move beyond the current drought measures – such as

1 William Street Brisbane
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Business Centre 13 25 23
Website www.daf.qld.gov.au
ABN 66 934 348 189

the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, which is only available to producers in the grazing industry. These objectives are achieved with the Drought Preparedness Grants subject to this regulatory amendment.

As the Queensland Government moved to the implementation of the endorsed recommendations of the Drought Program Review, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) established the Drought Reform Working Group comprising major agricultural industry organisations such as AgForce, Queensland Farmers Federation, (the then) Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation and Canegrowers.

The working group met regularly over 18 months to inform industry of the progress on implementation as well as to seek feedback on the specific proposed programs such as the Drought Preparedness Grant.

The industry groups consulted throughout this process were supportive of the introduction of the Drought Preparedness Grant that is subject to this regulatory amendment. Through this process, DAF and the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) provided industry with clarification on issues – such as eligibility criteria and the activities eligible for a Drought Preparedness Grant – and the guidelines for the Drought Preparedness Grant. These guidelines, in turn, inform this regulatory amendment.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Gee'.

Robert Gee
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries