

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



QUEENSLAND
FARMERS'
FEDERATION

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Allan Dingle
PRESIDENT

The 2020-21 year has been another year of positive progress for the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) as the organisation continued to effectively advocate on sector-wide issues and secure positive outcomes on economic, social and environmental matters of strategic importance to the agricultural sector.

QFF addressed energy policy and the cost of electricity, advocated for affordable and accessible irrigation water and supporting infrastructure, called for greater disaster recovery assistance and championed agritourism.

The majority of the credit must be given to CEO Dr Georgina Davis for her leadership in progressing the organisation's agenda to improve the operating environment of Queensland's farmers. Thank you also to the QFF team, which has continued to uphold the organisation's formidable reputation as a leader in policy development and project delivery on behalf of the agricultural sector.

This year has not been without its challenges as more than half of Queensland remains in drought and farmers continue to struggle with high input prices. While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to create instability across agriculture supply chains and disrupted access to a well-resourced workforce. Additionally, the cumulative impact of government policies and consumer expectations are running the risk of becoming insurmountable and challenging the viability of many farm businesses.

To deal with these issues, QFF continues to rely on our industry member organisations for their support and contribution to QFF's committees, council and board in conjunction with the support of their staff and farmer leaders. While a diverse group, QFF's strength to effectively and efficiently deliver on farm improvements for Queensland agriculture is derived from collaboration and cooperation to form a unified voice.

At a time when Queensland farmers are facing ongoing issues and challenges, they require unified agricultural representation more than ever. In 2021-22, QFF and our members will continue to work together to advocate and seek positive outcomes for sector-wide issues with a unity of purpose. The organisation will continue to drive improvements in the operating environment for farmers through sustainability, productivity and profitability while delivering on our environmental and social obligations.

CEO'S REPORT



Dr Georgina Davis
CEO

In last year's CEO report, I talked about the profound change the agriculture sector had experienced and that there was more disruption to come. But resilience is not about remaining in the same position throughout times of crisis, it is about being able to evolve and develop to survive and confidently thrive. Despite the challenges of the past year, QFF has continued to grow and bring positive change to Queensland's agricultural sector.

During this period, we have seen an unprecedented number of consultation processes on significant structural matters as well as the superfluous. This has not only tested QFF's lean structure but indicates the significant expertise and respect that the organisation has from governments of all levels and other critical agencies.

We have achieved positive policy outcomes for our members including reductions in irrigation water pricing following sustained, well-evidenced representation through Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance. While hard work undertaken in previous years, such as our robust participation in the development of Energy Queensland's revenue determination process, resulted in further downward pressure on electricity prices, the design of new tariffs for

irrigation customers, and a new Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme which applies rebates to eligible electricity customers bills, preventing bill shock for farmers that would have eventuated had we not advocated on their behalf.

Over the past year, QFF has assisted farmers in exploring ways to grow their farms and businesses, increase productivity and profitability. Many of Queensland's farmers and agribusinesses are looking for new sources of income in areas such as agritourism, agri-processing, carbon farming and reef credits. New revenue streams from the land, beyond traditional food production, will help Queensland's agricultural sector build resilience and generate diversified income streams. This was a focus area for QFF in the 2020-21 financial year and it will continue to be an area requiring strong advocacy next year to remove the barriers as well as realise opportunities with new grant programs administered by QFF in the new financial year.

We are also providing thought leadership in emerging areas of concern and opportunity. We understand Queensland's agriculture sector needs capital investment to drive agtech adoption and capital is also a key growth driver for innovation and change. Yet, despite significant amounts of capital looking for a worthy home, investment in the sector remains nascent with a recent report by the AgriFutures Research and Development Corporation identifying a lack of investment as a major constraint to the sector's future growth. While alternative farm investment models such as leasing land, share farming, sale and leaseback, and corporate investment could be better facilitated by structural changes to long-established systems. The interrelationship and complexity between many of these issues cannot be underestimated.

QFF continued to deliver practical on farm projects such as the highly acclaimed Energy Savers Program. This program has provided opportunities and savings (financial and carbon) for hundreds of individual agricultural businesses. It has also afforded unique data sets and technical information that is now allowing us to leverage new

opportunities and innovative on-farm ag-tech projects that are delivering productivity and competitive advantages to participants. Thus continuing the legacy of delivering high impact projects for the sector.

We have also established new collaborations with research partners across a range of projects that will add value and knowledge to the sector in areas from drought and risk management, the control of fire ants, through to the valorisation of organics. Additionally, we have signed Memorandums of Understanding with organisations that share our vision and passion for Queensland's agricultural sector but who do not qualify for direct membership under our constitution.

A resilient organisation is somewhere where the organisation's future ambition is supported and fed by the experience it has accumulated. Taking stock of our webpage which documents this year's media, our submissions, technical reports and thought leadership pieces, and showcases our significant and diverse on-farm projects, there is a wealth of knowledge and experience in the organisation. This knowledge is leveraged and contributed to by our member organisations, making the federation a continuous, strong united voice for Queensland's agricultural sector in the areas of policy and regulatory reform, community education and information sharing.

QFF is an organisation that has a very clear purpose, both in how to achieve that purpose and its ability to translate those ideas based on what it has learnt in the past and what it continues to learn today. I continue to be extremely proud of the QFF team, their professionalism, passion, and their positive and sustained contribution to the sector.

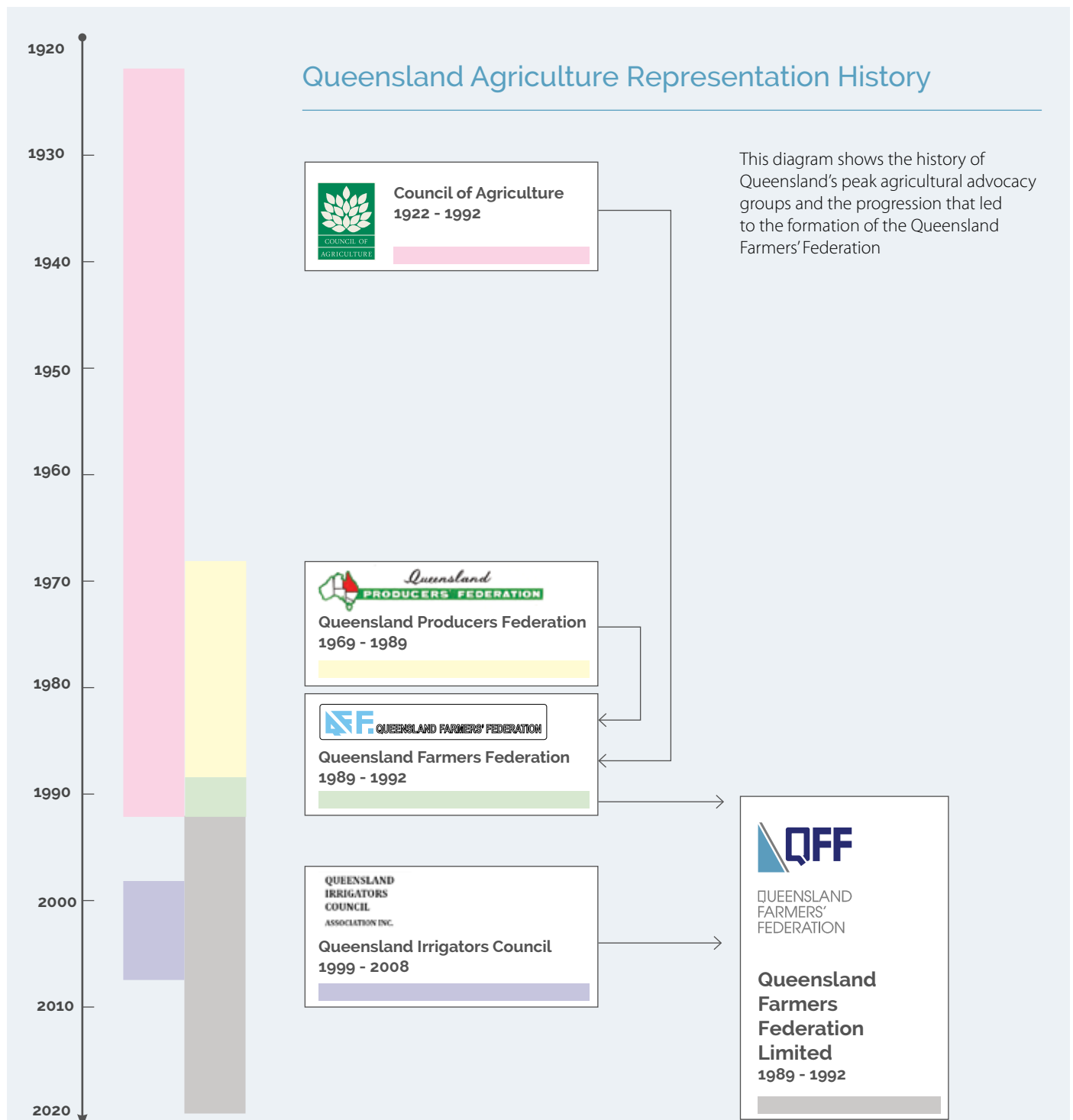
ABOUT QFF

QFF is the united voice of intensive, semi-intensive and irrigated agriculture in Queensland. We engage in a broad range of economic, social, environmental and regional issues of strategic importance to the productivity, sustainability and growth of the agricultural sector. Our mission is to secure a strong and sustainable future for Queensland farmers by representing the common interests of our member organisations.

For more than 30 years, QFF has earned a formidable reputation as a

leader in sectoral policy development and driving change to improve the operating environment for Queensland's farmers. Recognised as a non-partisan organisation that works effectively with all levels and sides of government, QFF is widely acknowledged as one of the most influential and respected advocacy groups in Queensland.

Currently uniting 21 peak national, state, and regional agriculture industry organisations and the state's irrigation groups.



2020-21 SNAPSHOT OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Successfully advocated for the Queensland Government to correct its definition of horticulture beyond just fruit and vegetables to include nuts, turf, flowers and nursery growers in the 50 per cent price reduction election commitment for horticulture irrigation water users.



Successfully advocated for the Queensland Government to provide an electricity rebate to assist farmers transitioning to new retail tariffs when obsolete and transitional tariffs were phased out.



Successfully advocated for the Queensland and Australian Governments to extend the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme which provides farmers with the support they need to future proof their sustainability and profitability in the face of drought.



Successfully advocated for the activation of disaster assistance for farmers beginning the recovery process following damage caused by flooding and cyclones in Queensland.



Partnered with University of Queensland students to complete a discussion paper highlighting the financial insecurity farm businesswomen and a research report identify and dispel common myths amongst young people about working in agriculture.

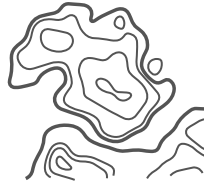


Partnered with Regionality to release the Queensland Agritourism Roadmap which sees stakeholders from across government, tourism, regional development, agriculture, small business, and infrastructure work together to expand agritourism in the state.

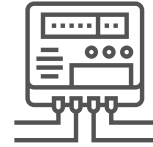




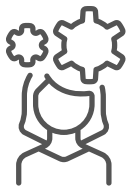
Partnered with Airbnb to sow the seeds of opportunity and grow the state's emerging agritourism sector through world-class farm stays and exciting new farm experiences.



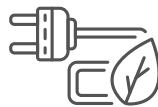
Successfully completed the Flood Mapping, Mitigation and Management Plans for Primary Producers project and delivered practical tools and tailored education resources to better prepare Queensland farmers for flood events.



Partnered with Cotton Australia, ReAqua, and Constructive Energy on a microgrids project and reached a major milestone installing more than 65 smart energy meters to measure and model how microgrids can offer benefits to agricultural electricity consumers and energy networks.



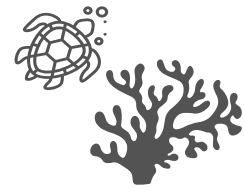
Partnered with Griffith University to release the Queensland Farm Businesswomen: The Long Road to Leadership report identifying initiatives that would encourage more women to take up leadership roles in the state's agriculture sector.



Reached a major milestone in the Energy Savers Plus Program Extension, with 100 per cent of farm energy audits now complete and many participants beginning their power saving stories.



Partnered with the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance and FarmReady Hub to launch an online hub linking farmers with interested, farm-ready' job seekers and a comprehensive online accreditation program for jobseekers looking to enter the Australian agriculture sector.



Partnered with the Queensland Government to undertake the 2021 Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program providing 11 trainee extension officers with, training and mentoring through work placement to gain the skills needed to support the efforts of farmers to safeguard the future of the Reef.



ADVOCACY

Energy

Energy continued to be a significant focus for QFF in the 2020-2021 financial year. Throughout this period, QFF made four submissions regarding energy policy and regulation impacting Queensland's primary producers and processors. While most of this year's advocacy effort has been in the education and roll-out of new and existing tariffs for the food, fibre and foliage sectors, addressing problems resulting from the discontinuation of the 'obsolete and transitional tariff' arrangements and matters arising from Regulated Retail Electricity prices.

QFF raised concerns about the delivery of the Queensland Competition Authority's (QCA) Regulated Retail Electricity prices for the 2021-22 year. Limited time was made available from the delivery of the proposed tariffs and pricing to the implementation date. QFF's Water and Energy Policy Committee called for the QCA's Final Determination date to be brought forward to allow more time for farmers to prepare for changes in relation to the transition from the obsolete tariffs to the new replacement tariffs and to address the issues raised.

We continued to strongly advocate for, an increase of the small business customer threshold to 160MWh per year and the removal of the solar rebate from current electricity prices, instead recommending that the state government pay the solar rebate from consolidated revenue as in previous years.

QFF continues to represent the sector on Energy Queensland's (EQ) Customer Council and the Agricultural Forum. After engaging with EQ and highlighting the concerns associated with lack of consultation from the QCA and EQ on tariffs, a communication strategy was

developed. This has assisted stakeholders to best utilise the tariffs available, discuss options and pricing for customers transitioning from obsolete tariffs and help develop solutions to reduce electricity costs. Information is being developed to suit the requirements of QFF's members, with the inclusion of the Energy Savers team to better assist projects targeting on-farm energy use.

QFF is continuing to work with Queensland's distribution networks to advance the deployment of advanced metering and other technologies that will be necessary to achieve the full benefits of network tariff reform for customers.

Assisting stakeholders to best utilise the tariffs available, discuss options and pricing for customers transitioning from obsolete tariffs and help develop solutions to reduce electricity costs.



Photo courtesy of Ergon Energy Network and Energex

Powerlink

Powerlink Queensland is a Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the electricity transmission network in Queensland. QFF is a member of Powerlink's Customer Panel as well as the current Revenue Proposal Reference Group (RRPG). Over the past twelve months, QFF has been engaged extensively with Powerlink on their Draft Regulatory Proposal 2023-27 which was lodged with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) on 28 January 2021.

The revenue determination process sets approximately 80 per cent of Powerlink's annual revenue. The revenue funds the capital and operating expenditure needed to build, operate and maintain the prescribed (regulated) transmission network and is paid for by electricity customers across Queensland.

Powerlink's Regulatory Draft Proposal suggests a 3 per cent reduction in their capital expenditure and a target of no real growth in operating expenditure. Electricity customers could expect to see a drop of 11 per cent in average transmission prices in the first year of the next regulatory period (2022/23), and for price growth over the remainder of the regulatory period to be in line with inflation. For average small business customers, this represents an estimated saving in the first year of \$23.

QFF remains engaged in the revenue reset process with the AER to release its draft decision in September 2021, and remains highly vigilant with regards to a number of growing issues impacting the transmission sector from proposed new interconnectors, unprecedented levels of intermittently generated energy and impacts to the required level of minimum system strength (also known as the minimum fault level), and how these matters could impact costs and reliability for agricultural and other electricity customers.

Water-Energy Nexus

QFF has continued to educate and work with government on the inextricable connection between energy and water in agricultural systems. We continue to be disappointed and equally concerned that governments appear to be unwilling to accept ownership of the problems the sector faces. The intricacies of not incorporating climate change into the policy framework for water and energy can be seen as a lack of engagement from government to address what is, and what will be, a higher economic cost for farmers, stakeholders, the public and government in the long term.

Over the past decade Australia's irrigated agricultural sector has responded to pressures of water resource scarcity, climate variability and productivity challenges by making large-scale structural adjustments on farm. In a COVID-19 world, the irrigated agricultural sector has continued to respond to pressures, at their own cost, and with little support from governments to adjust.

Agricultural producers are progressively tackling the energy-water-climate nexus challenges through innovative thinking and collaborative engagement between different stakeholders. A clear and cohesive policy direction from government that allows for innovative practices to align with policy needs to occur in a timely manner to allow for greater economic and environmental sustainability for on farm practices.

QFF is driving conversations with key stakeholders to develop a smoother pathway for innovative mechanisms to be implemented that allow for the economic and sustainable delivery of water and electricity.



Water Development

In the 2020-2021 financial year, QFF made five submissions regarding water policy and regulation impacting Queensland's primary producers. Throughout this period, extensive advocacy work by QFF and its industry members was undertaken to transition the Queensland Government's 2020 election commitments for irrigation water pricing to the point of implementation.

The initial election commitment proposed horticulture (fruit and vegetables) would receive a 50 per cent reduction to their irrigation water charges, whilst the remainder of irrigation users would only receive a 15 per cent discount. After continued advocacy by QFF and its industry members, the Queensland Government's horticulture definition was broadened to include nuts, turf, flowers, and nursery growers, thereby enabling more farmers to access a greater water price discount. Unfortunately, QFF was unsuccessful in its efforts to have the 50 per cent rebate correctly and fairly extended to all irrigation water users. We appreciate the difficulties associated with a differential discount, not least the administration to mixed-commodity farms, through to the unintended consequences around accelerating land use change and commodity selection.

QFF also advocated against the projected large increases in water pricing that would have been applied at the end of the price freeze period on the 30 June 2021, and see most irrigators receive an increase greater than 15 per cent therefore eroding any proposed discounts. QFF presented modelling to the government and after negotiation, the Queensland Government decided to withhold the two-year price increase as proposed by the QCA Price Path, therefore on the 1st of July the QCA recommended prices for 2020-21 year will apply instead of the proposed 2021/22 prices. Subsequently, irrigators will now see a further price relief as discounts now apply to the prices that the QCA recommended for 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement with government departments has enabled QFF to provide input into the development of

the government's fact sheets and website to assist farmers in understanding the irrigation discounts that will be put in place on 1 July 2021.

QFF, through ongoing stakeholder engagement and support from industry members are helping to formulate and deliver various policy initiatives as part of the Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement (QBWOS) strategic framework. These initiatives address compliance, better management and utilisation of available water, improvement of water trading, development of water markets and water products, and temporary access to unallocated water are particularly relevant to our members.

As part of the strategic framework, QFF are currently participating in the regional water assessment processes for various regional agricultural areas to help develop a long-term plan for the sustainable development and utilisation of water that generates economic benefits throughout the state. Developing water security in water constrained environments, through policy, stakeholder engagement and science-based research requires a comprehensive and integrated approach.

Water reliability will continue to be a concern as the climate changes, and various solutions will be required to accommodate water security to ensure the long-term viability and continued advancement of the agricultural sector. However, a major impediment for this advancement is the disconnect between state and federal governments which is affecting investment in new water infrastructure. QFF continues to promote governance that reflects national water policy leadership, with more accountability within state governments that aligns with water reform principles.

To address the complexities of water security, there needs to be a comprehensive strategy on water, incorporating the quality of available land resources such as soil, water infrastructure, energy costs and the implications of climate change on the availability of water and associated impacts on the irrigation sector.





Water and Energy Policy Committee

The Water and Energy Policy Committee (WEPC) met 12 times this year and there were further issue-specific meetings throughout the year. During this period numerous discussions were held regarding the complexities surrounding irrigation pricing discounts proposed by government. This reflects the ongoing complexity of the regulatory processes and particular challenges for the industry this year.

WEPC was particularly instrumental in assisting the communication of critical messages and workstreams from key stakeholders such as SunWater, Seqwater, Energy Queensland, the Queensland Competition Authority and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water to QFF members. The significant issues this year include, but are not limited to, irrigation water pricing, water planning, metering policy (including telemetry) and the implementation of the Queensland water markets optimisation plan for underutilised water.

Throughout the year, WEPC also identified other factors that through regulatory mechanisms that will help the Queensland agricultural sector continue to be efficient, productive and remain economically viable both on the national and international market. As a result, QFF is committed to working towards establishing and implementing policy that integrates the complex groundwater and soil relationship on farmland. While also advocating for a whole of government approach for the development and implementation of policy on the reuse of water from sewage treatment plants as a sustainable option for agricultural water; reducing above lower bound water prices to lower bound water prices; and examining strategic challenges facing existing bulk and supply schemes, including greater protection of irrigation infrastructure and scheme modernisation.

Bradfield Panel

In 1938, prominent engineer Sir John Bradfield proposed a scheme to capture the plentiful water of tropical North Queensland and divert it west across the Great Dividing Range to open vast new swathes of the state for irrigation. Dr Bradfield's original concept also envisaged hydroelectric power generated to pump water. Since that time, the scheme has periodically been the subject of renewed political and public interest.

The Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel was established on 2 September 2020 to undertake an independent assessment of the financial, economic, environmental, social and technical viability of a Bradfield Scheme or Bradfield-like concepts.

The three panel members are Professor Ross Garnaut (Chair), Professor Allan Dale and QFF's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Georgina Davis.

The Panel was asked to consider economic and related matters affecting development in central and northern Queensland. These included new energy infrastructure (with specific reference to the CopperString Project) and potential for new industries (such as hydrogen). The panel was asked to exercise independent judgement in providing advice to the Queensland Government and to the wider community.

The panel is tasked with preparing a report for the Minister for the Department of Natural Resource Mines and Energy (now the Minister of Water following the 2020 Queensland election), by October 2021. The Queensland Government will consider the panel's recommendations.

QFF is committed to working towards establishing and implementing policy that integrates the complex groundwater and soil relationship on farmland.

Biosecurity

QFF supports effective invasive plant and animal management in Queensland and is a member of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative Oversight Committee. African Swine Fever, the highly infectious and contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, continued to spread around the world and moved closer to Australian shores. While it does not pose a health risk to humans, it is usually fatal among infected pigs and has the potential to disrupt the world protein market for years. QFF welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of a further \$58.6 million over four years to continue supporting frontline resources such as biosecurity officers, detector dogs and technologies including 3-D X-ray.

Fall armyworm continued to be a serious concern for Queensland, with the pest feeding on and potentially causing damage to hundreds of plant species including maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and wheat, other horticultural crops and cotton. QFF continued to remind Queenslanders that they have a general biosecurity obligation to manage biosecurity risks and must play their part by adhering to biosecurity requirements and immediately reporting concerns to Biosecurity Queensland.

In Queensland, the \$411 million National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (SEQ) continued to deliver against its 10-year eradication plan. A progressive rolling strategy is being implemented under this plan. The operational area was updated in the 2020-21 financial year with the addition of 10 new suburbs to biosecurity Zone 2 and 20 suburbs moving from Zone 2 to 1. These changes were based on the risk of fire ants being moved to or from a suburb and intend to reduce the chance of the pest spreading. Results of the program to date have been mixed, with the nursery and turf industries continuing to be the most affected amongst QFF members. QFF continues to be concerned by the continued spread of fire ants and lack of visible control through the existing program.

Fall armyworm continued to be a serious concern for Queensland, with the pest feeding on and potentially causing damage to hundreds of plant species including maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and wheat, other horticultural crops and cotton.





Risk Management

Throughout the 2020-21 financial year, QFF continued to lead the discussion around insurance as a risk management tool and maintained pressure on the Queensland Government to remove stamp duty for agricultural insurance products. QFF continued to work with Queensland Treasury and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to progress the development of a crop insurance risk mitigation strategy for primary producers.

Drought was a major risk for much of Queensland through 2020-21. At the time of writing, the state reported 65 per cent of the local government areas were under a drought declaration. Rainfall during the early part of 2021 was generally somewhat 'hit-and-miss' with the exception being damage caused by Cyclone Niran in the Far North regions which brought significant damage to the agriculture sector in late February 2021. While severe flooding was experienced by primary producers in the Southern Queensland regions, bringing further difficulties after a prolonged drought period.

QFF continued assist farmers impacted by drought through its position on the Drought Industry Working Group to work on Drought Program Reform. Since August 2019, the DAF have held regular Drought Reform Industry Working Group meetings and also conducted quarterly Drought Program Reform Interdepartmental Committee meetings. The drought program reform was slightly delayed but is now on track to deliver a wider range of drought rebates, grants and loan products facilitated by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), due by late 2021. QFF will continue to work with the Queensland Government and strive to implement the appropriate settings for long term drought reform.

QFF participated in the Steering Committee for the Queensland Government's work-related psycho-social hazards Code of Practice. This Code defines work-related psychosocial hazards as anything in the design or management of work, and interactions between people at work, that may increase the risk of work-related stress which can then lead to psychological or physical harm, or in severe cases

psychological injury, physical ill-health or death (e.g. suicide). Bushfires and ongoing flood recovery became the focus of risk mitigation responses for QFF and its member groups, with areas of the state experiencing damaging bushfires and enduring the lengthy recovery process.

Additionally, QFF was a member of the Australian Red Cross Steering Committee on Drought Management, and contributed to the consultation process and final report, 'not If...but When': Supporting Queensland Communities Plan for the Challenges of Drought, produced by the Australian Red Cross in June 2021.

At the national level, QFF continued its membership of the Minister's Roundtable on Drought and welcomed the announcement of the new Natural Disaster Recovery and Resilience Agency, led by the Hon. Shane Stone AC QC.

During the year, QFF also participated in the National Farmers' Federation Financial Risk Management Projects, with representatives on two of the six project teams: Forward contracts, futures, options and swap markets and associated product options; and Mutuals and co-operatives.

Drought was a major risk for much of Queensland through 2020-21. At the time of writing, the state reported 65 per cent of the local government areas were under a drought declaration.

Rural Planning

Planning for agriculture is necessary to ensure the best agricultural land remains available for food, fibre and foliage production. Land suitable for agriculture is a finite resource that cannot be created or replaced. Planning in rural areas aims to allow the establishment and operation of productive agricultural industries while conserving important natural areas and allowing non-agricultural uses in appropriate areas.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning review of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan is ongoing after being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A draft Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper was made available for consultation in December. QFF raised concerns regarding the use of Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) mapping, a Regional Planning and Interests Act classification used for resources development, to designate areas in the Regional Plan to be protected from development. This is a land use rather than land quality classification and creates further confusion in an already fragmented land use classification system. With the Draft Plan expected in the coming year, QFF will continue to use its position on the Industry, Community and Environment working group to seek adequate protections for agricultural land.

QFF partnered with Airbnb to promote agritourism within Queensland and encourage farmers to consider if they could provide an experience and diversify their income streams. In addition, we received funding from Airbnb to complete a Discussion Paper, compiled by agritourism experts Regionality, identifying planning issues within local government schemes and matters in state government legislation that are administratively burdensome for

producers seeking to expand or diversify their businesses to include agri-processing or agritourism. QFF has engaged with primary stakeholders for their feedback, with the report undergoing a final review before being released.

QFF also proposed to establish a review process to determine the interplay between agritourism ventures and regulatory instruments separate to the Planning Act and Regulation. An example for review may be land tenure. In Queensland, leases over state land are granted for various purposes such as grazing, agriculture, tourism, forestry and others as term, perpetual or freeholding leases. Relevant conditions and restrictions on leased land can limit the ability of a farmer to undertake an agritourism activity, particularly if finance is necessary, planning approvals are required, it is deemed as a new use or a new company entity needs to be established separate to the lessee as well as a number of other related requirements.

QFF also joined with other stakeholders and peak bodies to seek further protections for Queensland's agriculture land from the continued expansion of non-agricultural activities. Together we called on the Queensland Government to strengthen legislation to ensure the protection of Queensland's most productive agricultural land. These issues were reiterated to the GasFields Commission Queensland as part of their review of the effectiveness of the assessment process identified under the Regional Planning Interests Act to adequately manage coal seam gas activities in areas of regional interest. QFF will continue to highlight our concerns about protecting agricultural land from inappropriate development.



QFF partnered with Airbnb to promote agritourism within Queensland and encourage farmers to consider if they could provide an experience and diversify their income streams.



Mining and Resources

Queensland is rich in agricultural, mineral and energy resources. At times, this creates challenges for the agriculture and resource sectors to manage the interaction and coexistence between these critical industries. To assist with this ongoing relationship, the Queensland Audit Office recommended that the GasFields Commission Queensland review the coal seam gas (CSG) assessment process identified under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (Qld) (RPI Act). The review will determine whether the process adequately manages CSG activities in areas of regional interest, if the land classifications provided by the legislation are consistent and if adequate exemptions are available in the assessment process.

QFF is concerned the RPI Act does not currently provide the level of certainty and strength of protection that is needed to ensure remaining areas of high-quality agricultural land are safeguarded from inappropriate development and welcomed the GasFields Commission's review. QFF raised concerns that the purpose of the RPI Act does not protect regional interests; exemptions for Regional Interest Development Approvals are too broad; a lack of certainty for landowners and independent oversight; and inconsistent mapping across the state. As a result, we want to see strict, clear, non-discretionary prohibitions on inappropriate activities in key areas of regional interest; that proponents of proposed projects in areas of regional interest obtain a regional impact development approval before applying to obtain other major approvals; the removal of uncertainty, including around public notification; and the

introduction of meaningful public consultation processes and third-party appeal rights to increase transparency.

QFF contributed to the development of the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan (QRIDP) which aims to promote growth, jobs and investment in the state's coal, minerals and gas industries. Suggesting the rationalisation of the various land classifications so there is a single land categorisation that applies consistently to any assessment process for the protection of prime agricultural land. QFF also advocated for a notice of entry requirement, compensation and conduct agreements for new and emerging industries, and a Regional Interest Development Approval in more situations including some preliminary activities. A review of the efficacy of the current adaptive management approach to ground water impacts was highlighted.

QFF also received a significant number of concerns from landholders regarding deviated well activities in the Dalby and surrounding area. Concerns include retrospective notifications where landholders had been unaware that their properties had been compromised; the link between subsidence and these activities; a lack of clarity around entry notice procedures and access to insurance.

QFF will continue to assist with the ongoing relationship between agriculture and the resources sector to ensure successful coexistence. As regional communities require a combination of employers and developers to ensure positive futures.

Environment and Natural Resource Management

Great Barrier Reef

The UNESCO World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is a place of natural beauty and it has been the subject of much focus and examination (both nationally and internally) this year. Climate change will likely continue to be the strongest driver of ecological change for the GBR however, there still remains a need to improve the quality of the water flowing from the land to the GBR to ensure its health and ability to withstand and recover from extreme events.

The strategies and actions of government, industry and communities working together to improve the quality of water flowing to the GBR is guided by the Reef 2050 WQIP which sits within the Reef 2050 Plan. The Australian Government and Queensland Government jointly coordinate and deliver the governments' strategies and actions under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainable Plan and the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). The Office of the Great Barrier Reef is primarily responsible for delivering the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program (QRWQP), which includes implementing the Government's response to the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce's recommendations through a range of projects working with industry, agricultural producers and communities.

As part of the Reef 2050 WQIP, targets were developed and based on the quality of water Reef ecosystems need to be resilient and are calculated as reductions in anthropogenic loads. QFF is part of a partnership stakeholder committee working with Alluvium Consulting to better align the land management target with the finer scale water quality targets which vary across catchments, including considering how the targets are set through risk frameworks and how progress will be measured.

The proposed land management targets will be presented to the Queensland and Australian Governments for consideration ahead of the next Reef 2050 WQIP. Following the land management target review, a review of the Reef 2050 WQIP will commence in 2022. The five-year review of the Paddock to Reef program will also commence in 2022-2023.

QFF has continued to provide advocacy in this important policy issue through:

- Providing a submission on the requirements for new or expanding cropping and horticulture activities which became effective from 1 June 2021.
- Involvement in consultation by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) on changes made to these regulations in response to industry feedback.
- Attending a briefing on the Reef Trust Partnership Annual Workplan 2021-22. The briefing by the federal government was provided to all members of the Reef – Independent Expert Panel and Advisory Committee, of which QFF is a member.
- The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC), chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC is one of two advisory bodies for the Reef 2050 Plan. Established in 2015, to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan and to provide strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland Governments on Reef policy matters. QFF attended and participated in two Reef 2050 Advisory Committee meetings in the 2020-21 year.

QFF continues to advise government that industry remains opposed to increasing regulatory burden for farmers in the Reef catchments. It

is widely accepted by industry that the best way to realise long term practice change is leading by example, incentivising people and giving them a sense of ownership towards change. Applying a blanket and blunt approach to regulating agricultural activities across all six Reef regions in the belief that this will rapidly reduce run-off from farms is misguided.

Industry-led Best Management Practice programs and other voluntary programs incentivise and empower farmers and deliver real practice change. They are a structured and successful pathway for realising improved farm management practices and have supported farmers to gain a better understanding of their business and adopt improvements. Properly resourced, they remain a highly effective vehicle for agriculture to continue delivering improved environmental outcomes for the Reef and broader environment, and QFF and its members remain committed to this approach.

Other new opportunities also exist for landholders. For example, the Reef Credit Scheme is an innovative, market-based solution offering a new way to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Credit Scheme enables land managers to undertake projects that improve water quality through changes in land management to generate a tradeable unit of pollutant reduction or 'Reef Credit'. A Reef Credit represents a quantifiable volume of nutrient, pesticide or sediment prevented from entering the Great Barrier Reef catchment. In October 2020, Queensland saw its first issuance of the first Reef Credits with a project in the Tully River Catchment, south of Cairns, has become the first to be issued Reef Credits.





Land Restoration Fund

Maintaining a sustainable and profitable agriculture sector is essential to the longevity and prosperity of Queensland farmers and their environment into the future. The Queensland Government has committed \$500 million to the Land Restoration Fund (the LRF).

The LRF is a self-sustaining fund, not a grants program, that aims to grow the carbon farming industry in Queensland. The difference in the rounds' investment totals reflects the focus of each investment round, with the 'slower' release of funds ensuring the LRF can sustain investment over a longer period of time.

The Investment Round 1 (held in 2020) contracted carbon farming projects across Queensland, with contracts worth around \$87 million now in place. Round 1 also facilitated an expansion in both the methods used and locations of carbon farming projects in Queensland. Through Investment in Round 2, the LRF is seeking to invest an additional \$25 million in carbon farming projects that achieve positive additional co-benefits for Queenslanders, prioritising projects in Great Barrier Reef Catchments, and projects with a regenerative agriculture focus.

Carbon farming and trading is a new industry that seeks to involve landowners across Queensland. It will take time to build understanding of and capacity around this initiative, particularly as it can take up to two years for new carbon projects to be developed to the point of investment readiness. Staggering funding is the best way of ensuring investment continues as the carbon farming industry matures.

The LRF aims to expand carbon farming in the state by supporting land-sector projects that deliver additional environmental, social and economic co-benefits. The opportunity will enable land management activities aimed at storing carbon in trees and soils, and avoid the release of carbon through better management of fire, livestock, and fertiliser use. In addition, it will empower farmers, land managers and landholders with the support needed to generate additional, regular and diverse income streams, and reduce the risk for their businesses.

QFF is continuing to work with the LRF team to build the capacity and knowledge broking network of industry and natural resource management bodies. QFF along with NRM Regions Queensland has established a LRF Knowledge Brokers Community of Practice with Queensland's Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Bodies, industry groups, Landcare, Bushcare and Watercare Groups as a key mechanism to enhance understanding in carbon farming and participation in the LRF program in Queensland. Three meetings have been held in the 2020-21 period. Additionally, QFF has developed a number of carbon farming resources and held four Carbon Farming webinars in partnership with NRM Regions Queensland.

Intensive, semi-intensive and irrigation agriculture have specific barriers to overcome, including scale, and QFF continues to advocate that the LRF should push the boundaries of what carbon farming can achieve in Queensland and allow for increased participation. Our industries understand and accept their environmental and social responsibilities and are proud land stewards. With the right settings the LRF will create opportunities for farmers across Queensland to contribute to a range of positive environmental outcomes, including climate change mitigation and improving their on-farm adaptation.

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Zero Net Emissions to Positive Net Emissions

The term net zero has become synonymous with business engagement in the task of tackling the climate crisis. It follows the 2018 special report on 1.5°C from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which warned that global emissions must drop to net zero by 2050 for the best chance of avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Agriculture is one of the few sectors, that with the right interventions, can not only achieve net zero but can go beyond to be climate positive.

Climate change is already impacting the productivity and profitability of Queensland's farmers with average temperatures in Australia have risen around 1.4oC since around 1950. In November 2020, Deloitte released their report 'A New Choice: Australia's Climate for Growth' which included estimates that climate change (if left unchecked), will cause Australia's economy to contract by 6 per cent and have 880,000 fewer jobs by 2070 which will ultimately equate to a \$3.4 trillion lost opportunity. Essentially, it is an estimation of the cost of inaction. But these estimates were in stark contrast to an Australian economy successfully delivering net zero by 2050 (to deliver on commitments to keep global warming to 1.5°C) that could add \$680 billion (in present value terms), grow the economy by 2.6 per cent and create more than 250,000 jobs.

The Queensland Government has set a state target to reach zero net emissions by 2050 with an interim target for at least a 30 per cent reduction in emissions on 2005 levels by 2030. This target is seen as a critical first step to drive the investment and action needed to transition Queensland's economy to a zero emissions future. The Queensland Climate Transition Strategy outlines how Queensland proposes to prepare for this transition and set itself on the pathway to meet this target.

Addressing agriculture emissions is challenging due to the dispersed nature of farming and the critical role of the sector in the life (and livelihoods) of millions. There are entry points for mitigation of agricultural greenhouse gases outside government price policies, but many questions remain around their scalability and efficacy. A comprehensive and accelerated effort will be needed to bridge the gap from modelled emissions to realistic policy pathways. Reducing agriculture emissions will require changes to how we farm, what we eat, how much we waste, and how we manage our forests and natural carbon sinks. This will have wide ranging implications which may impact an internationally competitive, sustainable agricultural sector.

QFF is a critical stakeholder in a new Department of Agriculture and Fisheries project on low emissions. This industry partnership will develop a co-designed strategic pathway to establish the Queensland agriculture sector on a post 2030 trajectory of low emissions production and capitalise on the opportunities offered by a low emissions economy. This strategic body of work will build on the 2019 Marginal Abatement Cost Curve for Queensland Agriculture (MACC). The forward work program will be delivered in three phases:

Phase One

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will be engaged to facilitate a strategic discussion with industry, policy makers, academics, producers, processors, retailers and the finance sector on the forward climate goals for the sector and prepare an analysis, informed by the latest science and market trends, to frame the forward pathway for the work program. The CSIRO project will be overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Science and industry representatives. Engaging industry early in Phase One will ensure a level of acceptance and ownership of the strategic direction as we move into the later phases of the work program.

Phase Two

In partnership with industry and building on the output and findings from the CSIRO analysis, phase two will seek to ground-truth these findings more broadly across Queensland's regions and agriculture industry sectors. Phase Two will also seek to gain a better understanding of the barriers to the adoption of known low carbon technologies as identified in the MACC.

Phase Three

Building on Phases One and Two, Phase Three will again partner with industry and deliver a co designed Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap that will lead the sector's strategic action towards Queensland's zero net emissions 2050 economy target. The Roadmap will focus the sector to capitalise on low emissions opportunities, create the necessary pathway for post-2030 policies and technologies, and identify actions for government, industry, research institutions and individual businesses that focus efforts and investment to lower emissions and demonstrate the sustainability of the sector into the future.

Many farmers are concentrating on managing their carbon impacts and it makes good business sense, not just in terms of landscape management but also in terms of securing income from new forms of green market mechanisms through to safeguarding future market access. It is essential that climate change solutions centre and safeguard those most disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation and climate change, and in Queensland, the protection of our food production systems and our natural flora and fauna is a priority.

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Waste management and resource recovery

Much of the focus over the past 12 months has been on organics with almost \$70 million committed by the federal government towards investment in new Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) initiatives, coupled with organics strategies and targets either developed or in development across all state jurisdictions.

From a systems-based approach, implementing FOGO has the potential to boost significant landfill diversion of household material, which would contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions, as well as increasing beneficial reuse within the garden and landscaping sectors, however the opportunities for agriculture seem less apparent. FOGO volumes will be small and for the most part not regionally located, while concerns remain over contamination if household education and practices are not improved. Current standards for compost and similar products are also inadequate if we are to protect agricultural land from contamination or biosecurity risks.

While the federal FOGO funding is welcome, an important piece of the food chain puzzle also requiring attention is avoidance in the first instance. This is not only the top priority of the adopted waste management hierarchy, but also has a national target to half food waste by 2030.

And while the focus is on low valorisation of FOGO to compost, the agriculture sector's potential is being missed. Queensland agricultural produces around 17MT of organic by-products and non-food organics annually. While farmers are already fully cycling their organics and nutrients on-farm, new opportunities exist for adding more value to these organics streams including bioenergy through to innovative green chemical and nutraceutical applications. However, the current policy settings are not supportive of innovation or diversification.

Queensland's Department of Environment and Science is currently developing an Organics Strategy 2022-2032. Organic waste has been identified as priority area for action under the Waste Strategy due to the significant contribution of organic waste to the waste stream, the potential environmental and economic impacts associated with disposal of organic waste, and the identified beneficial uses for this material.

QFF is a member of the Queensland Government's Organic Waste Stakeholder Advisory Group and has articulated the existing circular approach to organics and nutrient cycling on-farm, thus acknowledging the role of on-farm composting, as well as bioenergy opportunities and valorisation of organics.

QFF has also succeeded this year in amending two End of Waste Codes to the benefit of the sector, the first permitting dairy farmers to use waste tyres in silage storage applications while the second has permitted farmers to utilise recovered gypsum as a soil ameliorant and additive to on-farm derived composts.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

Over the period 2015-16 to 2019-20, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries were among the most hazardous in Queensland, with an average of six fatalities each year recorded for the sector. The serious injuries claim rate is still tracking higher than the Queensland average with the most common mechanisms of injury being hit by moving objects, falls, trips and slips, and body stressing. While the most common agencies of injury are non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment, environmental agencies, animal, human and biological agencies, mobile plant and transport, and materials and substances.

Inspectorate activities such as workplace visits, intervention activities, workshops, presentations and seminars by inspectors to agricultural businesses continue to be proportional to the industry's share of notified events as is the share of statutory notices issued to agricultural businesses (around 3 per cent). The regulator is taking a more active approach and there have been new appointments made to the office of the Office of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Prosecutor.

QFF's activities this year have included continued advocacy to the Queensland Government to co-invest in on-farm safety measures and responding to the review of the Electrical Safety Act. In 2020-21 there were 54 agricultural incidents of impact with overhead powerlines in Queensland. As result, QFF has continued to work with TAFE Queensland to deliver the Rural Electrical Safety Awareness Micro-credential, which is an online introductory course providing foundation skills in how to work safely with electrical equipment in rural workplaces.

In August 2020, QFF CEO Dr Georgina Davis assumed an Employer Representative role on the Workplace Health and Safety Board, Queensland. Key activities have included the identification of new and emerging risks, through to the continued implementation of the 'Best Practice Review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland'. For example, the review recommended that a new offence of 'gross negligence causing death' (also known as industrial manslaughter) be introduced. The offence of industrial manslaughter was introduced in October 2017 and from 1 July 2020, the WHS Prosecutor assumed responsibility for prosecuting cases for Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) as well as offences under WHS and Electrical Safety laws. This year QFF released numerous media articles alerting farmers to the implications of the industrial manslaughter legislation amongst other related safety items.

QFF continues to work with its WHS partners including SafeAg Systems and Holding Redlich to improve on-farm safety, risk awareness and mitigation, and deliver high quality resources to members. QFF's Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy Committee has also been re-established and has an ambitious plan for works for next year including the release of several safety guidelines and safe-farm case studies.

Diversification

Over the past year, QFF has been assisting farmers to explore opportunities to grow their farms and businesses, increase profitability and value-add. Many Queensland farmers and agribusinesses are looking for new sources of income in areas from agritourism and agri-processing through to carbon farming and land management practices.

New revenue streams from the land, beyond traditional food production, will help Queensland's agricultural sector build business continuity and generate diversified income streams and QFF realises there is much to do in the space to support individual farmers as well as entire sectors.

In November 2020, QFF released its Agritourism Roadmap which clearly identified the core themes and six strategic actions where collaborative effort is required to establish a thriving agritourism sector across regional Queensland. Regional tourism has been long recognised as a significant part of the Australian visitor economy, with 44 cents of every tourism dollar, spent in these areas. In addition to creating authentic local experiences for visitors, agritourism provides a pathway to market for farmers and food businesses, by creating consumer experiences that benefit agriculture, food manufacturing, retail and the tourism sector.

The QFF Agritourism Roadmap was developed to assist Queensland to realise the \$4.5 billion dollars that could be generated by the Agritourism sector for the Queensland economy by 2030. It also advocates for strategic interventions that will unlock the potential of the agritourism sector. The Roadmap is being implemented with support from an Agritourism Working Group comprised of critical stakeholders from tourism and all levels of Government.

Work has also commenced a Discussion Paper outlining Land Use Reform and Planning Opportunities to better enable agritourism and agri-processing, acknowledging that Queensland's planning instruments are complex and burdensome for many farmers to navigate and do not reflect the change that is and has been occurring in modern agriculture.

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Telecommunications

QFF continued to support the work of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition (RRRCC). Led by the National Farmers' Federation, the 21-member Coalition was formed to raise awareness of the important role of connectivity for regional Australians and ensure their voices are heard. The policy goals sought by the Coalition are:

1. **Guaranteed access to voice and data services** – Wherever Australians work and live, they should have guaranteed minimum access to data and voice services. This includes upload speeds and other specific features needed for existing and future residential, agriculture, health and education applications.
2. **Equitable voice and data services that meet minimum standards and reliability** – Updated telecommunication service guarantees and adequate service performance are needed to reflect the needs of consumers and businesses.
3. **Continued program to expand mobile coverage** – Expansion of mobile coverage is critical in regional and rural areas. There are premises, vital community hubs and high traffic areas that remain at risk from having no mobile coverage.
4. **Digital capacity building for regional, rural and remote Australia** – Consumers and businesses need independent, trustworthy technical support to get connected and stay connected.
5. **Affordable communications services for regional, rural and remote Australia** – Providing access to affordable communications to support individuals and families to access essential services and engage in education and training in place, strengthening local communities.

Land Values and Local Government Rates

The financial sustainability of local governments across Queensland continues to be a challenge with increasing community demand for services, population growth and rising costs associated with maintenance and renewal of ageing infrastructure. There have been various reports documenting that over half of Queensland councils spend more than they earn. QFF is becoming increasingly concerned by the unchecked increases in rates applied by local governments to agricultural land. The disparity between Queensland's farmland values and the associated local government rates is becoming more significant in some areas.

The Valuer General's 2020 Property Market Movement Report noted increased sales activity in Queensland's rural markets. As a result, farming valuations this year saw an uplift of around 30 to 80 per cent. However, rate increases in many local governments areas have eclipsed these valuations for farming businesses.

QFF notes that land valuation increases do not correlate to a need for more funds to administer a region. While some local governments,

are managing these changes in land valuations well, others are using it to raise revenue and, in some cases, relying on agriculture to cross-subsidise other rate payer classes.

QFF has presented our concerns and evidence to the relevant Minister, Department and in association with other industry sectors, to the Parliamentary committee regarding non-compliance (of the rates and charges being levied onto agricultural landholders) with the purpose and principles of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Queensland Government's Guideline on equity and fairness in rating for Queensland local governments.

QFF also noted our concerns over the effects of a recent decision by the Land Appeal Court in *Western Downs Regional Council v Geldard*. The outcome of the Geldard case supports an excessively broad discretion of local government to determine applicable rating categories for landholders. In this most recent case, the Land Appeal Court found that "It is use of the land, not solely the principal activity of the owner of the land, that determines categorisation" and that the rating categories selected by a local government do "not require the land to be used exclusively, wholly or predominantly for gas extraction and associated activities." This recent court decision will inherently change the way private landholders are rated. The court ruled it is lawful for a local government to apply a rating category to a private landholder based on the third-party infrastructure on their land regardless of their connection and/or ability to influence it. In the case of resource activity in Queensland, the resource under the ground belongs to the Crown. A resource company has a legal right to access the land to explore and develop the resource on behalf of the Crown and the private landholder is unable to refuse access to that resource company or activity.

QFF's concern is that the Geldard decision may also influence future rate determinations based on ancillary activities on farm, which a farmer undertakes to support their primary production activity such as renewable energy facilities or agritourism ventures. QFF believes that the Geldard decision is inconsistent with the Queensland Government's Guideline which states that "Parcels of similarly valued land which are used for the same or similar purposes, and receive similar services should be levied similar general rates."

QFF has asked the Queensland Government to undertake urgent legislative action to correct the unintended consequence of the Geldard decision and other council activities including, but not limited to, making the Queensland Government's Guideline a statutory instrument; and commit to a review and administrative amendment to the various primary and subordinate legislation to ensure that land cannot be rated twice.

Based on recent revenue raising actions and under-performance in some key responsibility areas, the current funding model for some of Queensland's local governments appears to be unsustainable. The effects of this on agriculture have been seen through a lack of predictability, consistency and justifiable increases in rates charges, through to responsibilities concerning biosecurity, pests and weeds not being fulfilled.

The financial sustainability of all local governments is essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities, and particularly our regional areas. However, agricultural businesses cannot fund this endeavour, particularly in the currently challenging conditions, not least the wide-spread drought. Queensland must consider whether structural changes made to funding (regional) local governments in other jurisdictions have been effective.



Research Collaborations

In the past twelve months QFF has been inundated with requests to support research and innovation projects. The imperative of many of the applications has been compelling and they will further knowledge and advancements across the sector, as such, QFF has supported many of these applications.

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program supports Australian industries' ability to compete and produce. The federal government facilitates these Centres through funding to assist partnerships between industry and the research sector to solve industry-identified problems. QFF is either a member of, or has supported projects, across several CRC's.

For example, QFF is a member of the CRC for Reliable Affordable Clean Energy for 2030. A successful project supported by QFF will investigate the techno-economic feasibility on anaerobic co-digestion with the produced biogas will be upgraded and compressed to BioCNG for use in transport, farming and electric power generation.

In the CRC for High Performance Soils, QFF proudly supported a successful project to develop cost-effective organic- and clay-based moisture retention products for improving farming under dry conditions.

QFF is a research partner in an application for an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project on developing cost-effective biogeochemical fingerprint technology for tracing the land use source of particulate nitrogen in different catchments of the Great Barrier Reef.

QFF is awaiting a decision on a proposal from the University of Queensland's (UQ) to implement Clay-RNAi platform technology for dsRNA-mediated gene silencing as well as the novel approach to improve the existing fire ant bait. QFF believes that this research would be a game-changer for delivering a significant solution to eradicate fire-ants from Queensland by commercialising a product that requires fewer applications and is stable under moderate wet conditions.

QFF is also supporting the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) led Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales (SQNNNSW) Hub which is one of eight national Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, a flagship of the multi-billion-dollar Future Drought Fund. The Australian Government is investing \$10 million in the University of Southern Queensland led hub over four years, with more than \$10 million contributed from Hub Partners. QFF has a long-established research relationship with USQ, previously partnering on projects regarding climate change and development of insurance products for the Queensland sector.

QFF is continuing to support its commitments to the Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship regarding the energy transition led by Dr Katherine Witt from the University of Queensland's Centre for Natural Gas. And we maintain our close working relationship with the Applied Network for Recycling Organics and Waste Management (ANROWM) at Griffith University to identify relevant research and funding opportunities.

The Next Generation

QFF understands the importance of promoting the agricultural sector as a first choice for employment of students at all levels and from all disciplines. As such, QFF takes an active leadership role in interacting with universities and their students through the delivery of lectures through to hosting student projects.

This year, QFF and its industry member, the Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) supervised a group of four, final year students in completion of AGRC3000 Food & Fibre Case Studies module at the University of Queensland. The project investigated international market opportunities for native flowers and foliage to identify where possible development opportunities were appearing in international markets, and to substantiate those opportunities in order to increase the value and resilience of Queensland's native cut flower and foliage industry.

QFF also hosted two interns from the University of Queensland. These exceptional individuals contributed to two research reports for the sector. The first report was released on International Women's Day and identified financial insecurity as a significant issue for farm businesswomen. The report identified several issues. First, the prevalence of unpaid work in the industry, with at least one third of all female farmers and farm managers being unpaid family members. This is clearly a significant structural issue for the industry, yet it is difficult to make progress on the issue while farmers rely on this labour to maintain the viability of their farms. Moreover, farm businesswomen face further challenges in generating off-farm income due to factors such as isolation and domestic work, and this income is nevertheless often exhausted by farm and household expenses, meaning that women fail to retain any funds for themselves. The limited opportunity for women in financial decision-making is another key problem. Often in family businesses there is a mistrust of daughters-in-law due to the way that divorce can damage farm businesses, as well as a misunderstanding of the value of their contributions. As a result, financial decisions about issues such as superannuation and business transition often leave women in vulnerable situations. Education for farmers of the benefits of incorporating women's voices in financial decision making is essential for combating the issue of financial insecurity as a whole.

The second report was titled Understand and Responding to the Perceptions and Reality of a Gap Year in Agriculture. This report focused on how the proposition of working in the agriculture industry during a 'gap year' is perceived by individuals who are either currently undertaking, or have recently undertaken, a gap year. It identified clear trends in how these individuals view the agriculture industry as a gap year employer, and analysed the key reasons for why many gap year takers shun casual agricultural employment. The report also scrutinised common perspectives of the industry in light of relevant data to determine whether they are formed based on an accurate understanding of the agriculture sector, or whether they are ill-informed and instead are the result of some other factor. This research has informed QFF advocacy in order to better design policies and approaches to encourage individuals taking a gap year in the future to consider, and ultimately choose agricultural employment.

QFF also assisted another student from the University of Queensland's Masters of Sustainable Energy program in undertaking thesis research. The project sought to understand whether the real-time energy meters installed under the Energy Savers Program would assist farms to improve energy productivity and make more informed tariff choices.



Innovation Opportunities

A new report, commissioned by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, has been released by the CSIRO and the Queensland University of Technology's Centre for Future Enterprise. Titled, A New Chapter: Opportunities to Seed New Industries for Queensland Over the Coming Decade, the report has identified nine 'seed industries' with the potential to create new industry opportunities for the state. Queensland's strong agriculture sector has been recognised as a key enabler of various seed industries, notably microalgal and macroalgal resources, agricultural sensors and automation, supply chain provenance technologies, and resource recovery technologies.

Queensland has the natural resources and expertise needed to grow algae. This industry offers opportunities to develop high-value products, including functional foods, livestock feed, biofertilisers, biofuels and therapeutics, while reducing carbon emissions. Digital technologies including the Internet of Things (IoT), robotic technologies, autonomous vehicles and drones are already transforming the agriculture industry, providing new opportunities to improve the productivity and efficiency of the sector. Investment in this industry could see the number of businesses increase from 155 in 2019 to 765 by 2030 and account for 3,637 direct and 10,984 indirect full time equivalent jobs. While traceability systems could be used to track and trace food products along the entire value chain, from the paddock to the consumer. These technologies would enhance the transparency of the entire supply chain and strengthen Queensland's reputation for safe, high-quality food and agricultural exports.

Establishing and transitioning to these emerging seed industries would not be without challenges and requires strong leadership, strategic direction and collaboration across government, industry and academia. However, this report provides a foundation to set a new strategic direction for the state following recent disruption.

QFF continues to advocate for and be engaged in this exciting work through collaborations which have the potential to add significant value and opportunities to the sector.

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Events

Despite uncertainties of lock downs and border restrictions, QFF maintained an active presence across the state in the form of webinars, grower events and major conferences. QFF's key policy team also participated in a record number of face-to-face and online forums to ensure our membership and their farmers were heard and adequately represented on a wide range of issues.

In March 2021, QFF jointly hosted the Future Waste and Resources Convention with the Australian Industrial Ecology Network (AIEN) and the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of Queensland (WRIQ). The convention was supported by a significant number of sponsors and featured a range of topics including both federal and state government policy and programs, organics and carbon market opportunities for farmers, disasters management and fire ant regulation. There were many opportunities for professional development and networking with colleagues from across numerous sectors, as well as a complementary site tour and an industry breakfast co-hosted by AiGroup. A total of 45 speakers shared their insights and addressed current industry developments over the three-day conference program, delivered both in-person and via livestream, with over 260 people attending in person, despite coinciding with border lockdowns in Victoria.

QFF proudly supported the Farm2Plate Exchange, 18-19 May 2021, held in the Scenic Rim. The event provided a platform for farmers, food and drink producers, chefs, tourism and hospitality businesses to meet, exchange knowledge, debate big ideas, network and learn

from the immersive experience. The event also facilitated a number of critical research collaborations and new projects.

Additionally, QFF was a Gold Sponsor of the Australian Farm Institute (AFI) 'Agriculture and Trade in Disrupted Economies' Conference on 17 June in Toowoomba and on-line. The event, which attracted 90 delegates, acknowledged that while COVID-19 was the most prominent disruptor of trade in recent times, it is far from the only one. Geopolitical tensions, socio-economic changes, infrastructure challenges and biosecurity concerns were not merely theoretical risks but active disruptors to Australia's export-reliant agriculture sector. The speakers, which included the Reserve Bank of Australia's Governor Philip Lowe and Trade Minister Dan Tehan led discussions on future strategies to manage impacts and importantly how Australian farmers could take advantage of 'creative destruction' to improve business resilience. The timing of the conference coincided with the announcement of new trade restrictions as well as decision processes from key agricultural sector to pursue settlements through the World Trade Organization.

QFF also sponsored a new category in the National Energy Efficiency Awards – the Best Agricultural Energy Efficiency Project award presented by the Energy Efficiency Council. Two Energy Savers Program farms were featured, the Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group won the inaugural award for their work with the Cayley Family farm in Bundaberg and a Mundubbera Citrus farm was highly commended.



Photo courtesy of WRIQ

2020-21 SUBMISSIONS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY



Submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Review (September 2020) – September 2020



Submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission – Perishable agricultural goods inquiry – September 2020

EDUCATION & TRAINING



RJSA submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – ANZSCO update project – June 2021



RJSA submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – National Agriculture Workforce Strategy – August 2020

ENERGY



Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – QCA Draft Determination – Regulated retail electricity prices for 2021-22 – April 2021



Submission to the Energy Security Board – Renewable Energy Zones Consultation Paper, January 2021 – February 2021



Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – QCA Interim consultation paper: Regulated retail electricity prices for 2021-22 (January 2021) – February 2021



Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – QCA Draft Determination: Supplementary Review, Regulated Retail Electricity Prices for 2020-21 (August 2020) – September 2020

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & WASTE



Submission to the Department of Environment and Science – Draft End of Waste Code Gyprock (ENEW07618819) – May 2021



Submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – Independent review of the agvet chemicals regulatory system – February 2021



Submission to the Department of Environment and Science – Draft standard conditions for new or expanded commercial cropping and horticulture activities (February 2021) – February 2021



Submission to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – Draft National Soil Strategy (2021) – January 2021



Submission to Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee – Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 – July 2020

FARM FINANCE & DEBT



Submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment – Farm Management Deposits Scheme Evaluation 2021 – April 2021

MINING & AGRICULTURE



Submission to the Department of Resources – Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan – June 2021

RURAL PLANNING



Submission to the GasFields Commission Queensland – [GasFields Commission Queensland's review of the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 \(Qld\)](#) – March 2021



Submission to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – [Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan: Draft Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper](#) – February 2021

WATER



Submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment – [Draft default guideline values for the Water Quality Guidelines \(August 2021\)](#) – August 2021



Submission to the Productivity Commission – [Register of Foreign-owned Water Entitlements – Productivity Commission Issues Paper \(February 2021\)](#) – March 2021



Submission to the Productivity Commission – [National Water Reform 2020 – Productivity Commission Draft Report \(February 2021\)](#) – March 2021



Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – [Draft statement – Statement of regulatory pricing principles for the water sector \(November 2020\)](#) – February 2021



Submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission – [Murray-Darling Basin water markets inquiry, Interim report \(30 June 2020\)](#) – October 2020

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY



Submission to Worksafe Queensland – [Review of the Electrical Safety Act 2002 \(Qld\)](#) – May 2021

OTHER



Submission to the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport – [Discussion Paper, Designing Our Tourism Future \(May 2021\)](#) – June 2021



Joint Submission by QFF, QRC and AgForce to Economics and Governance Committee – [Inquiry into the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](#) – March 2021



Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – [QCA Rate of return review \(November 2020\)](#) – February 2021



Submission to the Chief Medical Officer – [Consultation on the Regulations to support the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019](#) – May 2021



Submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet – [Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance: Competitive Business Environment Working Group](#) – August 2020



MAJOR PROJECTS

Energy Savers Plus Program Extension

In 2020-21, QFF and its member partners continued to deliver the Energy Savers Plus Program Extension (ESPPE) with the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW). The program has delivered 180 energy audits to farms across Queensland. The ESPPE includes a co-contribution grant of up to \$20,000 per farm and the team has been working with farms to encourage and facilitate implementation of recommended energy management opportunities.

QFF was successful in gaining an extension for farms to claim the rebate funding until the end of February 2022 (for farms that had applied to QRIDA for funding approval by 30 June 2021).

30 measurement and verification reports demonstrated that farmers are generally saving 17 per cent more than estimated in their audit reports (in some cases because larger solar systems have been intalled).

There have been some adjustments to extension activities this year in the light of COVID-19 making workshops and face-to-face interactions impractical at times. The team has been ensuring farms are kept up to date with the findings of their energy audits and new technologies by hosting webinars, writing numerous case-studies and maintaining contact with farms to assist them with implementation and claiming rebate funding.

Extension activities of the program have achieved over 2,000 social media impressions per month with case studies regularly highlighted through Twitter and Facebook as well as over 600 web views per months, with over 70 per cent of visitors to the website viewing case studies.

The Project has delivered on the program requirements including:

- 180 on-farm energy audits
- 47 follow-up tariff reviews
- 53 real-time energy monitoring devices installed with dashboards available to participating farmers
- 39 energy extension events reaching over 2,100 people
- Over 90 new case studies and fact sheets hosted on the QFF website
- 30 measurement and verifications (M&V) completed
- 16 e-newsletters sent containing articles written by the team and published on the QFF website.

Outcomes for farms for the program to date include

- Over 7million kWh of potential annual energy savings identified with an average of 42,000 kWh per farm
- Over \$3.1 million of annual farm cost savings if all recommendations are implemented
- 675 individual recommendations across the audits across various technologies
- Over 32,100 tonnes of potential greenhouse gas emissions identified with an average of over 33 tonnes per farm
- 138 farms have applied for co-contribution grants and at the time of writing, 84 have claimed some or all of the funding.

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180

On-farm
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47

Follow-up
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53

Energy
monitoring
devices
installed

39

Energy
extension
events

90

New case
studies

30

M&V's
completed

16

eNewsletters

Outcome for farms

42,000
kWh

Annual energy savings
per farm per year

3.1
million

Annual farm
cost savings

675

Recommendations
across various
technologies

33
tonnes

Greenhouse
gas emissions
identified per farm

138

Farms have
applied for co-
contribution grants



Flow on Benefits of Microgrids for Agriculture

In 2020-21, QFF and the project consortium executed the first half of the Flow on Benefits of Microgrids for Agriculture project funded by the Commonwealth's Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund (RRCF).

Building upon the success of the Energy Savers Program, the microgrid study moves beyond efficiency and tariff insights and seeks to understand the feasibility of farmers engaging with the electricity network as non-traditional customers. By measuring energy flows with real-time smart meters over a year the project team will model scenarios where microgrids and other smart grid infrastructure could offer greater benefit to the farmer and the network.

Four case studies across varying commodities were selected in Queensland and New South Wales, including ten farmers and one water service operator. Two smart meter vendors were selected as part of the 65 meter roll out. The selection of a second vendor has provided a valuable comparison point for the maturity and suitability of smart meter vendors in agricultural settings. Due in part to COVID-19, smart meter installation faced significant delays as preliminary site visits could not be conducted and one vendor faced significant supply chain disruptions.

With meters installed, data is now being collected and sent to a dashboard where farmers can observe their energy loads in real-time. The most common loads are residential, sheds, and pumps. The project team has also built a real-time model that runs microgrid scenarios for each case study. The model will be further developed to integrate climate, historical energy, and other complimentary data sets that can offer relevant holistic insights to each farm.

The project team is further exploring project collaboration opportunities including real-time water metering overlays with the Mackay case study and a virtual power plant data share in Wee Waa.

Each case study will ultimately represent common archetypes of agricultural energy users. Learnings from each case study will be used to determine what types of smart-enabled energy infrastructure and services unlock the greatest benefit for the most farmers possible. Feasible microgrid projects have the opportunity to apply for funding via the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

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Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance (RJSA)

Funded by the Queensland Government, the RJSA is in its sixth year of operation and continues to provide recommendations and advice to government, service providers and other stakeholders about employment, skills, industry training and workforce planning on behalf of Queensland agriculture.

In the 2020-21 financial year, the membership of the Alliance grew, industry members of the Alliance are (in alphabetical order): AgForce; CANEGROWERS; Cotton Australia; Growcom; Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ); Irrigation Australia; Queensland Chicken Growers' Association; Queensland Farmers' Federation; Timber and Building Materials Association; Australian Prawn Farmers' Association; Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, Tropical Carbon Farming Innovation Hub. The Alliance is supported by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The RJSA has continued to express concern for the skills gaps that have arisen following the closure of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. The RJSA has worked closely with available registered training organisations to improve the development, attraction and retention of skilled workforces, including:

- Delivering a new round of the Agriculture Extension Work Placement Program funded by the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program. 11 Graduates were employed by host organisations across the Reef catchments to develop skills through mentoring and training to engage with primary producers and assist them to enhance their land management practices and business outcomes. The graduates also had the opportunity to build professional and local networks with their fellow graduates, industry advisors, previous graduates as well as in their local communities.
- Completing the 'Embracing Digital Disruption in the Agricultural Sector' project. The project delivered targeted training regarding digital innovation, farm business management and the Internet of Things to 113 farmers and farm workers. The project received positive feedback, with participants reporting they gained knowledge and skills, and developed their networks with like-minded peers that will assist them to continue their journey into embracing digital technologies.
- Partnering with FarmReady Hub and with support from the Queensland Government provided agriculture jobseekers with a centralised 'hub' of information, providing relevant information about regional Queensland, government training, and employment initiatives, as well as a link between job seekers, and employers. The website also offers Pre-Induction Micro-Credential program that prepares jobseekers for work on farm.
- Completing the Queensland Farm Businesswomen: The Long Road to Leadership report. This research carried out by QFF and Griffith University, and aimed to identify initiatives that would encourage more women to take up leadership roles in the state's agriculture sector.
- Forming QFF's Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion: Farm Businesswomen Working Group which has guided conversations to identify strategies to increase the participation of women in agriculture.
- Producing the Discussion Paper: Financial Security of Farm Businesswomen in Australia which investigated financial insecurity of farm businesswomen. The discussion paper provided recommendations and suggested steps for government, industry bodies, researchers, and farmers themselves to progress change.
- Collaborating with UQ Skills to launch a Farm Business

Management special edition, for women, by women, which has attracted more than 100 women from across Queensland seeking business management skills to incorporate into their personal, family, and rural businesses.

- Completing the Growing in Ag Report which identified and dispelled common myths about working in agriculture to encourage more young people on their gap year to experience the sector. The report conducted a research survey and utilised other data to further agriculture's understanding of the perceived barriers of young people to working in the sector with a view to attracting more gap year experiences and opportunities.
- Forming QFF's Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion: Effective Path to Migrant Employment Working Group. The Group was established and meets bimonthly to develop and implement strategies to support the training, development and employment of migrants in agriculture in Queensland.
- Partnering with Jobs Queensland to deliver a Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan. The five-year plan, to be completed by 2022, will respond to the major issues reported by the industry while anticipating future workforce demand. The project also includes delivering training and support to small and medium-sized agriculture business who are ready to build capability and/or start planning for their future workforce with training delivered using the workforce connect tools developed by Jobs Queensland.
- Working with regional networks, particularly the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN), to help industries engage with government programs that will boost workforce development for rural and related industries.
- Providing input to the Agribusiness Gateway to Industry, Schools program (AGISP). 65 schools participated in the program and undertook a range of projects that exposed students to various aspects of the agricultural supply chain.
- Partnering with AgForce Queensland to deliver a project funded by the federal government's Kids to Farm grants program, aimed at cultivating connections between farms, schools and communities, and participating on the Steering Committee.

Additionally, to improve industry interactions with training providers and other interested stakeholders in the VET sector, RJSA hosted two webinars regarding opportunities for agricultural training and adapting training and learning following the COVID pandemic.





Industry Skills Advice

QFF hosts an Industry Skill Adviser (ISA) who engages with employers, small businesses and industry stakeholders to provide high quality, evidence-based industry advice and intelligence about current and emerging industry direction, regional skills needs and training solutions, jobs growth and employment opportunities. This information is fed directly to the Department of Education, Small Business & Training (DESBT) in the Queensland government to help with decisions about skilling and education funding. Key highlights from the financial year include:

- Assisting with the Cane Pricing Project, a partnership between QFF industry member CANEGROWERS and TAFE Queensland, to assist farmers in understanding their financial position and managing risk through forward pricing options. The program has been oversubscribed with 137 attending the training. This has seen promising outcomes for new training delivery practices and improved financial outcomes for farm enterprises.
- Providing industry with an opportunity to have a greater say in the annual review of the Priority Skills List and Traineeships and funding for training products.
- Working closely with the Queensland Government and TAFE Queensland to ensure effective industry consultation in the roll out of the Centres of Excellence in Toowoomba, Bowen, Bundaberg and Cannonvale.
- Forming an Industry Reference Group for Aquaculture to facilitate the skilling of their workforce as the sector experiences rapid expansion.
- Providing advice to Skills Impact regarding the development of a national training package and participation in Industry Reference Committees (IRCs); as well as feedback on Forecast and Schedule of Work (2019-2022) by contributing to the relevant IRCs' training package project reviews.
- Worked with RJSA members to provide industry intelligence and advice about the emerging industry direction, regional skills needs and training solutions.

Drought and Climate Adaptation Program – Producing Enhanced Agricultural Crop Insurance Systems

Funded through the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP), the project conducted focused reviews on climate risk in agriculture and how insurance products could be used to address these risks. QFF has developed a collaborative working relationship with the project partners, the Centre for Applied Climate Sciences at the University of Southern Queensland and Willis Towers Watson. One of the key outcomes of the project is the obvious benefits of collaboration between the research, insurance and the agriculture sectors to identify and potentially commercialise a crop insurance program. In this respect, QFF continued discussions with Queensland Treasury to obtain capitalisation funding to begin implementing a Discretionary Mutual Fund, the vehicle identified as best suited to facilitating crop insurance products into the sector. The project obtained a further extension with funding available until June 2022.

Outputs of the project include:

- Promotion of the cyclone parametric insurance product developed to increase understanding and awareness.
- Development of a Discretionary Mutual Fund initially to manage cyclone risk, with the capacity to manage hail and drought risks.

Flood Mapping, Mitigation and Management Plans for Primary Producers

Funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program, this program enabled two industry extension officers from member groups, Growcom and the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, to work with ten primary producers to develop mitigation and resilience management plans for their properties. The project was completed in September 2020.

Outputs of the project include:

- Individual property mitigation and resilience management plans for primary producers to identify and manage flood risks.
- An online education platform, AgriLearn which provides a series of short, educational videos on the components of flood risk mitigation. Presenters are specialists in their fields of financial risk, land management, soil health and erosion.
- Improved resilience to future flood hazards.



Supporting the Supporters

A project jointly funded under the Commonwealth and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Community Development Program. The project objective was to mentor and equip primary producers to provide support to other farmers during a natural disaster. QFF identified the Australian Red Cross (ARC) as a partner to deliver their successful program, Supporting the Supporters, to primary producers impacted by the North Queensland Monsoon Trough Flood Event.

Project findings include:

- There is a hunger for connection – to share with like-minded individuals – whether that be farmers talking with farmers, or individuals connecting with one another in the recovery support roles. Connection delivered locally is important, face-to-face and person-to-person is valuable.
- The role of the Industry Recovery Officer (IRO) in recovery projects is critically important to enabling farm recovery. A qualitative survey conducted as part of the project revealed how highly valued the IRO is by primary producers, as they act as a conduit between government agencies and industry.
- Establishing a formal industry support network is not a priority, however establishing a conduit for connection, resourcing and equipping individuals undergoing recovery, is a priority.
- Funding for mental health education and counselling services for frontline recovery workers need to be included in future recovery projects.

#eatqld Campaign

The #eatqld campaign encourages the community to eat local, stay healthy and support jobs in Queensland's agricultural sector, acknowledging that the state produces the widest range of agricultural commodities anywhere in Australia and that the quality of the fresh produce is second to none. The aim of the campaign is to encourage Queenslanders to support Queensland farmers by exploring locally grown food and to share their experiences online using the hashtag #eatqld.

Since launching, a range of #eatqld champions have been named, recognising their contributions to producing and promoting Queensland's locally grown produce. To coincide with Queensland Day celebrations, on June 4, QFF and a group of #eatqld champions showcased local produce and skills at the #eatqld long lunch held at Tommerup's Dairy Farm in the Scenic Rim. The lunch celebrated a number of #eatqld champions and locally grown amazing produce Queensland has to offer.

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INDUSTRY MEMBERS

Major Commodity Members



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COTTON AUSTRALIA



GROWCOM



NURSERY & GARDEN
INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND
(NGIQ)



QUEENSLAND CHICKEN
GROWERS
ASSOCIATION (QCGA)



QUEENSLAND
DAIRYFARMERS
ORGANISATION (QDO)

Industry and Irrigation Members



AUSTRALIAN CANE
FARMERS ASSOCIATION
(ACFA)



FLOWER
ASSOCIATION



PORK QUEENSLAND



QUEENSLAND UNITED
EGG PRODUCERS



QUEENSLAND CHICKEN
MEAT COUNCIL (QCMC)



BUNDABERG
REGIONAL IRRIGATORS
GROUP (BRIG)



BURDEKIN RIVER
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