



Annual Report

2024-25



QUEENSLAND
FARMERS'
FEDERATION



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President's report

Aaron Kiely
President
Queensland Farmers' Federation

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) for a second year.

Over the past 12 months, QFF has worked on behalf of and alongside our peak body members, to represent farmers at all levels of government. We've continued to strengthen our policy voice across energy, water, biosecurity, land use, workforce, risk, recovery and resilience, and infrastructure – areas that are critical to both the day-to-day running of farm businesses and the long-term prosperity of our sector.

This year, we welcomed progress on several longstanding issues including the Queensland Government's decision to extend the rural irrigation price discount, and bipartisan support for restoring the 80:20 funding split for Bruce Highway upgrades.

The advocacy of QFF and our peak body members delivered practical wins for Queensland farmers, including the long-awaited reform of the 'primary producer' definition and the inclusion of crop replanting in disaster support. This change, secured through consistent and united advocacy, will make a meaningful difference for producers during drought and disaster. Similarly, QFF's work on energy affordability, water policy and regional infrastructure reflects our members' top priorities and the power of industry speaking with one voice.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation's strength lies in its members. It has been pleasing to see growing collaboration between our peak body member organisations, with shared policy positions and coordinated input helping to amplify the voice of agriculture. Whether responding to legislative reviews, planning frameworks or biosecurity threats, QFF has provided a platform for our members to engage meaningfully and strategically. We were pleased to welcome the Australian Chicken Meat Federation as a QFF member during the year.

Our project work continues to deliver real value for farmers on the ground. The launch of SmartAg Queensland, progress under the Energy Information Service for

Landholders (EISL) project, and the reach of our workforce and resilience programs are just some of the examples where QFF and our peak body members are making a difference on the ground.

As President, I have continued to prioritise listening to the sector – whether in Townsville, Emerald, Rockhampton or Far North Queensland. Events like FNQ Field Days, along with QFF's signature events including our Celebration of Agriculture networking event in line with the Ekka and National Ag Day breakfast, have reinforced the value of strong relationships between producers, industry leaders and government. QFF's role is not only to represent our peak body members and the sector in 1 William Street, but it is also to stay deeply connected to the people and places that make Queensland agriculture strong.

This year, the QFF Board continued to provide clear strategic direction, maintaining strong alignment with our CEO and team. Our culture of collaboration and shared purpose remains one of the Federation's greatest strengths. We have worked hard to create an environment that is based on trust, where organisations actually want to work together.

As we look ahead, QFF will continue to focus on working for our peak body members along with key stakeholders who can join with us to strengthen the voice of agriculture in Queensland.

Thank you to my fellow Board members, QFF members and corporate partners, our CEO Jo Sheppard, and the QFF team for their dedication and leadership. It is an honour to work alongside people who are so committed to securing a strong future for Queensland agriculture.



CEO's report

Jo Sheppard
CEO
Queensland Farmers' Federation

This year, the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has continued to lead with purpose and collaborate with impact.

Our focus has remained steadfast: working with our peak body members in advocating for policy settings that support resilient, profitable and sustainable farming businesses across Queensland.

The 2024-25 year presented both significant opportunities and pressing challenges for agriculture. From biosecurity threats and natural disasters, including the catastrophic and record-breaking flood events in early 2025, to rising energy costs and planning reforms, QFF has consistently advocated for practical outcomes that support Queensland farmers now and into the future.

We welcomed important wins for industry, including bipartisan Federal and State government support for funding to address badly needed Bruce Highway upgrades. The Queensland Government's changes to the definition of 'primary producer' and the inclusion of crop replacement in disaster support were important policy reforms. QFF also advocated for long-term commitments to biosecurity funding and coordination, including through our submissions to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and the National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan.

QFF maintained strong momentum across our programs. We delivered training and resources through the Farm Business Resilience Program, helped build regional extension and AgTech capability through our on-farm placement programs, and supported farmers to make informed decisions when it comes to their future energy needs through the Energy Information Service for Landholders (EISL) project. We also launched the new SmartAg Queensland initiative, in partnership with our peak body members CANEGROWERS, Cotton Australia, and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, designed to deliver industry-led training solutions that align with the priorities

of farmers. And wow – it has delivered, achieving significant outcomes on the ground across the state from the get-go.

Our policy and advocacy work has spanned key priority areas: energy, water, land use planning, workforce, and regional development. We made over 20 submissions to government inquiries and regulatory reviews across the year, including on electricity pricing, planning reform, agricultural chemicals, fatigue management, and national agreements on water, climate, and renewables. This includes QFF's continued advocacy at a federal level for greater protections to safeguard the Great Artesian Basin. We advocated for energy pricing structures that are fair for regional Queenslanders, for better integration of agriculture in renewables planning, and for planning frameworks that protect productive farmland.

These outcomes are only possible because of our strong partnerships with our peak body members, corporate partners, government, and key stakeholders. We are proud to be the united voice of agriculture in Queensland, representing more than 13,000 primary producers through our 18 industry organisations and peak body members.

There are opportunities and challenges ahead. QFF will continue to constructively contribute to the development and delivery of the Queensland Government's 25-year blueprint, Prosper 2050, to grow agriculture across the state, and will be advocating strongly in relation to the many policy reviews and reforms expected ahead, particularly in relation to water, energy, disaster preparedness and response, biosecurity, environment, workforce and skills.

I thank the QFF Board and staff, our peak body members and corporate partners for their ongoing commitment to working together to build a strong future for Queensland agriculture.

About the Queensland Farmers' Federation

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the united voice of agriculture in Queensland.

Our members are agricultural peak bodies who collectively represent more than 13,000 farmers who produce food, fibre and foliage across the state. QFF's peak body members come together to develop policy and lead projects on the key issues that are important to their farmer members and the Queensland agriculture sector.

Together, we form a strong, unified voice leveraging our effectiveness by working together to drive policy and initiatives that support a strong future for Queensland agriculture.



Our areas of expertise



Water



Energy



Biosecurity



Workforce



Land Use and
Water Planning



Farm Viability and
Food Security



Transport and
Infrastructure



Environment



Risk Mitigation, Climate
and Disaster Response

Our history

QFF was formally established in 1992 to provide a united voice for the Queensland agriculture sector and to effectively advocate for sector-wide issues with a unity of purpose.



The establishment of QFF saw the unification of:

- The Council of Agriculture (1922–1992) which was made up of 18 former statutory agriculture bodies,
- The Queensland Producers' Federation (1969–1989) which was a broad coalition of agricultural commodity groups, and
- In 2008, the Queensland Irrigators' Council (1999–2008).

QFF has since grown its membership to 18 peak state and national agriculture industry organisations, and the state's irrigation groups. Collectively, through its membership, QFF represents more than 13,000 primary producers across Queensland.

Today, QFF is recognised as an influential and respected leader in policy development and advocacy with a strong history of driving change to improve the operating environment for Queensland farmers.

2024-25 highlights

August 2024

The SmartAg Queensland program launches, providing industry-led accredited, non-accredited and micro-credentialed training to farmers across the state with a focus on delivering training in rural and regional locations. The program, delivered in partnership between QFF, Canegrowers, Cotton Australia and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers supported access to training for more than 2,650 producers in the 2024-25 financial year.



October 2024

A new State Government is elected in Queensland. QFF, members and industry partners advocated strongly on behalf of the agriculture sector on a range of issues, including biosecurity, infrastructure and workforce throughout the election campaign

November 2024

QFF hosts our Annual National Ag Day Breakfast featuring an address from the recently elected Queensland Minister for Primary Industries.



JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

August 2024

QFF, with the support of Powerlink, launches the Energy Engagement and Education Advisor role, to facilitate meaningful engagement and improve awareness across Queensland's agriculture sector and to ensure the energy sector is aware of the needs of agriculture.



August 2024

QFF hosts our Annual Celebration of Queensland Agriculture event held as part of the 2024 Ekka for our members, bringing together decision makers and key stakeholders to celebrate agriculture but also continue to build effective relationships to work towards a strong future for agriculture in Queensland. QFF also joined our members on their Ekka stands to celebrate Queensland agriculture with the public.

November 2024

QFF runs the Queenslanders Can't Live Without campaign, attracting more than 250 entries from the Queensland public throughout November to coincide with National Agriculture Day.





December 2024

QFF and The Demographics Group host Australia 2025, a networking event, sparking robust discussions on the trends set to shape Queensland's agriculture sector and regional communities in 2025 and beyond.

January 2025

QFF welcomes Federal Government support for funding for urgent upgrades to bring the Bruce Highway to a 3-star safety standard minimum, following long-running advocacy efforts to #FixTheBruce.



April 2025

Energy Southern Queensland (EnergySQ) concludes, having engaged 87 farms in southern Queensland to enhance their energy productivity.

May 2025

QFF hosts corporate partner networking evening, in 2024-25 we welcomed several new corporate partners including RELA, TSBE, FLA and CarbonLink.



December 2024

QFF's Industry Resilience and Recovery Officers (IRRO) host their end of year forum, A Flood of Findings, in Toowoomba, the culmination of 18 months of work delivering the IRRO Program.



March 2025

QFF and members contribute to 25-Year Blueprint Forum.



February 2025

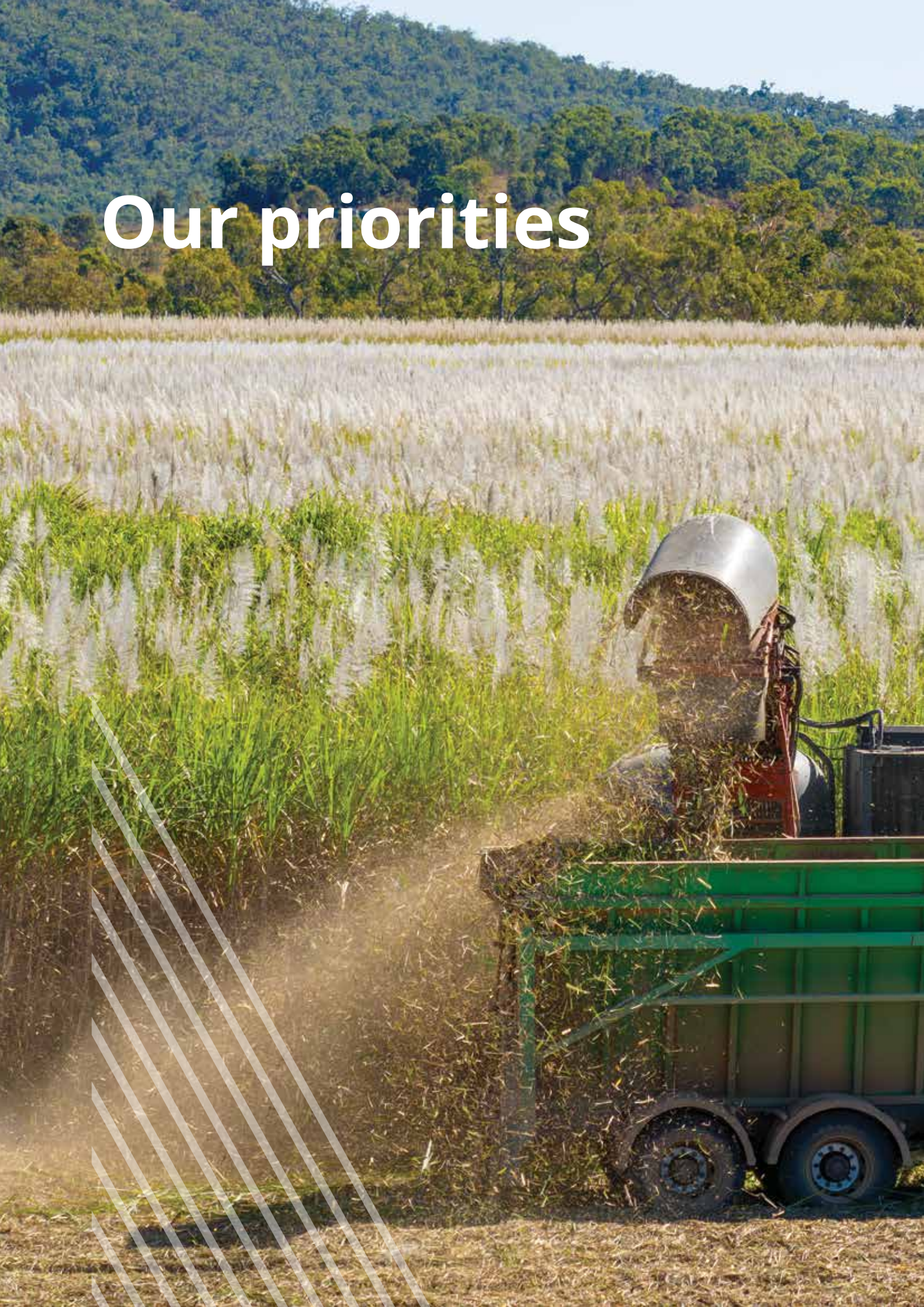
QFF and members attend and participate in Evoke Ag in Brisbane.

May 2025

QFF hosts breakfast event at FNQ Field Days alongside members where major reforms to disaster assistance policies were announced following significant advocacy from QFF and our members.



Our priorities





Water

QFF's water policy and project work are focused on supporting the profitability and productivity of Queensland agriculture through secure, affordable, and reliable access to water. As pressures from climate variability, population growth, and competing industries intensify, QFF is advocating for smarter planning, regulatory reform, and improved market

transparency. Our efforts aim to ensure growers can make informed decisions and maximise the value of their water use.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Affordable and transparent rural water pricing. QFF advocates for fair, efficient pricing structures through constructive engagement with SunWater, Seqwater, and government.
2. Secure and reliable water access. QFF advocates for protecting and releasing water allocations on time, while constructively contributing to national and state water reform and planning to safeguard long-term agricultural prosperity.
3. Building water literacy and confidence. By simplifying regulatory frameworks, improving transparency in water markets, and supporting growers with knowledge to make informed water use decisions, including engagement in key regional planning issues (e.g. Paradise Dam rebuild, Lower Burdekin groundwater impacts).

Our advocacy highlights

- ▶ QFF and our members successfully advocated for the extension of the 15% discount on rural water prices, providing costs relief for growers while ensuring inefficiencies within bulk water operations are identified and addressed. This outcome supports farm profitability and productivity, and reinforces the need for fair, evidence-based pricing reform.
- ▶ Through sustained advocacy, QFF was instrumental in achieving permanent protections for the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), with the Queensland Government delivery of the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. QFF continues to engage directly with Prime Minister Albanese, Minister Plibersek, and Senator Watt to ensure the review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act water trigger is expanded to include carbon capture and storage projects.



Project

Water Use Efficiency Trial Project

The Water Use Efficiency Trial is advancing with the recruitment of six diverse farms across the SEQ Agricultural Water Assessment (SEQAgRWA) region, encompassing key sectors such as fruit and vegetable production, dairy, and fodder crops. This diversity will deliver comprehensive insights into practical regional water management across the South East Queensland agricultural landscape. Progress has been made with the deployment of advanced monitoring and telemetry systems, complemented by tailored training for growers on using real-time data platforms. These efforts are fostering enhanced irrigation decision making and promoting water use efficiency across the participating farms. Baseline assessments have been completed, providing critical data on current irrigation infrastructure, practices, and water sources. The trial's dataset will underpin QFF's evidence-based approach to identifying efficiency gains and informing future water and land management strategies. Looking ahead, we anticipate the insights and recommendations generated will shape targeted and practical water efficiency initiatives, with aspirations to scale this work statewide in subsequent project phases.



Energy

QFF calls on the Queensland Government to work closely with the agricultural sector to develop an integrated energy strategy that meets the needs of farmers now and into the future, as industry continues to evolve and strives to maintain global competitiveness.

QFF advocates for regulatory changes that empower farm businesses to optimise energy use, adopt renewable and storage solutions, and explore local microgrids. We also seek support to ensure farmers are equipped to make informed decisions about their energy investments.

QFF has continued to advocate for information that supports landholders to navigate the evolving energy landscape. The QFF Queensland Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit (Toolkit), published in June 2023, experienced extensive, broad industry promotion and recognition in 2024-25. Following the success of QFF's Toolkit, QFF supported NSW Farmers to produce a similar landholder toolkit for NSW primary producers and has been working closely with other states to show leadership in supporting landholders to make informed decisions when it comes to their energy needs and future investments.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Ensuring farmers have access to current and accurate information that helps them make informed decisions about energy.
2. Advocating for energy infrastructure that is secure, reliable and affordable for primary producers.
3. Promoting energy market transparency, innovation, fair and equitable energy pricing, and retail opportunities that are tailored to the needs of Queensland agriculture.

Our advocacy highlights

QFF continued its strong advocacy for improving landholder understanding of, and participation in, Queensland's energy transition. In 2024-25, QFF established the Energy Engagement and Education Advisor role, designed to build more informed linkages between QFF's peak body members and the energy sector.

The role provides insights and facilitates a two-way information flow to ensure landholders' perspectives are understood and their voices heard. Supported by Powerlink Queensland, the position is the first of its kind in Australia. It reflects QFF's commitment to ensuring landholders, farmers, and regional communities have a strong voice and are heard in Queensland's evolving energy conversation.

QFF continues to advocate for appropriate tariff reforms to improve on-farm energy efficiency.



Projects

EnergySQ

The Energy Southern Queensland (EnergySQ) program, delivered in partnership between QFF and Acciona Energía Australia, concluded in April 2025. The program supported farmers across the local government areas of Goondiwindi, Southern Downs, Western Downs, Toowoomba, Scenic Rim, and Lockyer Valley, helping them identify opportunities to reduce costs, improve energy efficiency and lower emissions.

87 farms participated in the program, including 52 in 2024-25, receiving tailored energy and carbon reports with practical recommendations to enhance energy management and support long-term sustainability.

Key outcomes included:

- **electricity savings:** 2 million kWh per annum
- **diesel fuel savings:** 223,000 litres per annum
- **emission reductions:** 2,300 tCO₂-e per annum.

QBEST and the Ag Energy Hub

In 2024-25, the QBEST Ag program delivered 35 independent on-farm energy audits, building on earlier audits supported by the Queensland Government. If all recommendations were implemented, the audits identified potential annual savings of:



The program also advanced industry knowledge through the Queensland Ag Energy Hub website, which hosted nine new case studies, quarterly e-news bulletins, and social media posts to share findings with a wider audience.

To support learning even further, five webinars on key insights were delivered by program auditors and published on the Queensland Ag Energy Hub website. Additional content included information on topics such as energy audits, the role of solar power, and how to understand on-farm emissions.

Energy Information Service for Landholders

Launched in May 2024, the Energy Information Service is a free phone service providing independent information and guidance to Queensland farmers and landholders on a wide range of energy matters.

The service supports producers in navigating issues such as tariff structures, renewable energy development in their region or on neighbouring properties, and other energy-related inquiries.

Since its launch, the Energy Information Service has been widely regarded as an innovative and valuable resource for the agricultural sector.



Energy Engagement and Education Advisor

Supported by Powerlink Queensland and guided by a steering committee, the Energy Engagement and Education Advisor (EEEA role) was established in 2024.

The role was created to strengthen engagement, consultation, and education across Queensland's agriculture sector, while supporting the development of policies, projects, and initiatives in renewable energy.

In 2024-25 the EEEA role attended more than 80 stakeholder meetings and workshops to advance the role's objectives, as well representing agriculture at key energy sector events including Coexistence Queensland, Powerlink Queensland, CS Energy, Queensland Treasury (Energy Division), Queensland Renewable Energy Council and The Energy Charter hosted events and forums.

EEEA key outcomes in 2024-25:

- Provided advice to landholders through the Energy Information Service, assisting with inquiries about the energy transition.
- Drafted submissions on renewable energy policy and regulation, including:
 - o Draft Renewables Regulatory Framework
 - o Coexistence Queensland's Landholder Guide and Decommissioning
 - o Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025
 - o State code 26: Solar Farm Development
- Conducted a strategic review of Powerlink Queensland communications to improve relevance for agricultural audiences.

Land use, transport and infrastructure

QFF recognises land use and transport infrastructure as critical foundations for Queensland's agricultural productivity, regional resilience, and economic growth.

Effective land-use planning that protects high value agricultural land, combined with strategic investment in transport networks, ensures the sector remains

competitive, sustainable, and integrated within broader regional development.

This work is essential to securing Queensland's food supply, supporting rural communities, and enabling agriculture to adapt to future challenges such as climate change and infrastructure demands.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Protecting Queensland's agricultural land by securing stronger planning protections, ensuring zoning certainty, and fair offset policies to safeguard high-value agricultural land from encroachment or displacement.
2. Resilient transport and freight networks while advocating for strategic long-term investment in transport corridors, local road upgrades, and alternate inland freight routes to strengthen supply chain efficiency and resilience.
3. Driving integrated, evidence-based planning by promoting regional planning that incorporates data, cumulative impact assessments, and climate modelling to ensure agriculture is represented in long-term infrastructure decisions.



Our advocacy highlights

- QFF, alongside industry peak bodies including the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ), the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Queensland Trucking Association, and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, achieved bipartisan political commitment and funding for Bruce Highway safety upgrades through the #FixTheBruce campaign. In January 2025, the Federal Government committed to funding 80% of a \$9 billion package to upgrade the Bruce Highway to a minimum 3-star safety rating, with the State Government funding the remaining 20% – a key ask of the campaign. QFF continues to represent the agriculture sector through our participation in the Bruce Highway Advisory Council, ensuring agriculture is considered in project planning priorities.
- Successfully positioned agriculture as a key stakeholder in renewable energy, distributed energy, and regional infrastructure planning. QFF also consulted on policy changes that recognised agriculture as a statutory consideration in regional development and planning frameworks.
- Contributed a guest article on effective land use planning and why it matters in the Australian Farm Institute's Farm Policy Journal special edition [Holding ground in uncertainty: insights for Australian agriculture in 2050](#), developed in collaboration with CSIRO's Ag2050 initiative. The article examined pressures on productive farmland, including mining, tourism, renewable energy infrastructure, urbanisation, offsets, protected land, and environmental legislation.



Projects

Supporting Agritourism in Queensland

QFF launched Agritourism Queensland on 1 July 2024. This not-for-profit peak agricultural body is led by farmers, for farmers, to advocate for and protect the interests of primary producers who diversify through agritourism or artisan production.

Dairy farmer Kay Tommerup serves as President, supported by a Management Committee of primary producers operating some of Queensland's most successful agritourism ventures. QFF has supported the association's operations, communications, secretariat and advocacy throughout its formative year.

Key achievements:

- Securing the formal inclusion of agritourism in the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 Plan after targeted advocacy, ensuring the sector is recognised in the state's long-term tourism strategy.
- Launched a structured membership model, with tailored tiers for farmers, supporters, local governments, and industry stakeholders – keeping membership accessible while affirming the primacy of agriculture.
- Releasing the first Sponsorship Prospectus, offering partners a values-driven opportunity to align with a trusted peak body and directly support farmers in regional and rural areas.

- Delivering the inaugural Brand Workshop Program, run by strategic partner Regionality Pty Ltd, building member capability in storytelling, market positioning and visitor experience.
- Celebrating World Agritourism Day (16 May 2025) with a high-profile advocacy campaign calling for balanced planning frameworks and stronger support for agritourism operators across Queensland.

Agritourism Queensland has quickly positioned itself as a credible, solutions-focused voice for farmers diversifying through agritourism, strengthening rural economies, fostering regional pride, and connecting consumers with the people and places behind their food and fibre.



   @agritourismqld

 [linkedin.com/company/agritourismqld](https://www.linkedin.com/company/agritourismqld)

Agritourism Queensland's website can be found at agritourismqueensland.au

Farm viability, risk, recovery and resilience

Queensland's agriculture sector and supply chain are frequently exposed to hazards and weather events that threaten productivity, efficiency, farm business viability and food security.

These events affect farming enterprises through the loss of livestock, crops and produce; damage to

infrastructure, equipment and buildings; damage to standing crops; and erosion of land assets such as soils and waterways. They also significantly impact farmers' mental health and wellbeing, as well as the viability of regional communities in which they operate.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Enhancing disaster recovery and drought adaptation strategies.
2. Supporting long-term resilience.
3. Building preparedness and managing risk.





Our advocacy highlights

Following the flooding and cyclone events in Queensland in early 2025, QFF and our members welcomed two important policy changes by the Queensland Government, enacted after many years of joint advocacy with our members:

-  Disaster assistance that covers the replanting costs for flood-impacted growers
-  An expansion to the definition of Primary Producer status to recognise the changing face of farming.

Projects

Farm Business Resilience Program


QFF continued delivery of the Farm Business Resilience Program to primary producers in the intensive livestock, production nursery, cotton and turf industries. Professional advisors worked one-on-one with producers to conduct risk assessments and develop Farm Business Resilience Plans. This engagement enabled producers to access the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) Drought Preparedness Grant.

The program collaborated with QFF's Industry Recovery and Resilience Officer (IRRO) project, with the two programs jointly delivering Resilience in Agriculture workshops. Workshops were also delivered with professional advisor and QFF corporate partner, BDO, in Biloela and Theodore


in July 2024. QFF also delivered additional Farm Business Resilience Planning workshops and webinars in 2025 on a range of topics with industry experts from Sparke Helmore Lawyers, the Bureau of Meteorology, and others.

During the reporting period, more than 750 producers from 725 businesses attended QFF events and participated in the program. In addition, 60 business risk assessments were conducted, and over 66 business plans developed or updated by the QFF program and its professional advisors.

QFF has successfully negotiated with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for Phase 2 of the FBR Program, which extends support to primary producers to 2029.



750
producers



725
businesses
attended QFF
events

60

business risk
assessments

66

business plans
developed or
updated

Industry Recovery and Resilience Program

The project continued during the report period with 24 Flood Management Plans developed by the QFF Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers, in addition to the 78 FMPs previously delivered for the project, providing a total of 102 FMPs for flood impacted primary producers. This work significantly boosted primary producers' capacity to recover from and prepare for future flood events.

In addition to delivering FMPs, IRROs supported 23 applicants in accessing the QRIDA-administered Flood Management Grant, which provided up to \$7,500 for expert advice on flood recovery and resilience. A total of \$148,416.78 in grant applications were provided by QRIDA out of the QFF IRRO delivery.

Workshops played a central role in connecting producers with professionals in agronomy, mental health, mapping, accounting, and disaster preparedness. These experts were actively promoted to ensure producers could access guidance tailored to their individual circumstances.

The program also prioritised inclusivity across cultural barriers by customising resources such as a Vietnamese-language Flood Management Plan template. This was a unique approach to the challenge of addressing cultural and language barriers and expanding accessibility for diverse producer communities.

Insurance Project

During the reporting period, QFF completed work for the Future Drought Fund Innovation Grant project: Insurance Tools for Managing Crop and Financial Risk, in collaboration with UniSQ's Centre for Applied Climate Sciences, WTW and Celsius Pro.

The project co-designed a range of more affordable, index-based insurance solutions for industries including wheat, broadacre, cotton and horticulture. These solutions are designed to help farmers better manage crop risk and reduce farm income volatility by integrating risk management with optimal crop strategies to maximise long-term profitability.

Research explored the benefits and barriers of parametric insurance options to offset the financial impacts of drought, flood, heatwaves, frost, hailstorms, and other natural hazard events. It also investigated optimal crop planting windows to improve yield potential, protect income and support farm profitability.

The project further assessed approaches to pooling risk across industries, regions or states as a cost-effective strategy to support wider adoption of parametric products. Overall, the project demonstrated the effectiveness of index-based insurance in safeguarding income, enabling faster recovery after natural disasters, and offering a viable solution for managing seasonal rainfall variability.



Crisis Communications Training Project

This project, funded by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, enabled QFF and members including Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, CANEGROWERS and Cotton Australia to deliver a crisis communications management program for primary producers.

The program provided training for farmers and industry representatives to prepare communications plans for managing crises such as biosecurity incursion, agri-terrorism, disaster or farm accident. Training also built participants' capacity to handle media enquiries and communicate effectively with staff, clients, suppliers, authorities, industry and the media.

Workshops were delivered in Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Burdekin and Mackay during May-June 2025, attracting 46 participants from a range of commodity, industry and NRM groups. Work began on an online toolkit of resources that includes fact sheets, tips and guidance on writing key messages, managing media interviews, and navigating social media channels. The toolkit will support QFF peak body members and the broader agriculture sector to develop their own crisis communications plans.

Workforce and skills

QFF's work in rural workforce development is central to strengthening Queensland's agriculture sector, ensuring it remains resilient, skilled, and future-focused amidst ongoing labour, training, and capacity challenges.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Strengthening workforce coordination across Queensland agriculture by facilitating partnerships between government, industry and training providers.
2. Driving strategic workforce planning through industry-led, evidence-based initiatives that improve access to relevant, practical training for the agricultural workforce.
3. Amplifying the voice of agriculture in Queensland's workforce policy and funding decisions.



Our advocacy highlights

- ▶ Delivered a comprehensive Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance Review (RJSA), endorsed by stakeholders, setting the path for continuity beyond June 2025.
- ▶ Influenced state workforce policy through formal input to the Queensland Government, reinforcing the importance of industry-driven models.
- ▶ Advocated for RJSA's recognition in Vocational Education and Training (VET) consultation processes, ensuring agriculture's unique workforce profile is acknowledged.



Projects

Building Capabilities for Agricultural Businesses Project

The Building Capabilities for Agricultural Businesses Project, known by industry as the Supervisor Skills Short Course project, delivered in collaboration with UQ Skills, continued to address a critical gap in Queensland agriculture by equipping team leaders with the communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills needed in today's complex farm workplaces.

In 2024–25, QFF supported delivery across multiple regions through a combination of in-person and online offerings.

Highlights:

- More than 130 enrolments across 13 delivery cohorts.
- Initial surveys showed that 85% of participants reported increased confidence in team leadership and conflict resolution.
- Regional delivery was focused with tailored content to meet local needs.
- Course design remained agile, evolving in response to participant and employer feedback, reinforcing QFF's commitment to practical, scalable training solutions.

Embracing Agriculture Digital Innovation

The Embracing Agriculture Digital Innovation project, delivered in partnership with TAFE Queensland, advanced QFF's commitment to improving digital literacy and AgTech readiness across Queensland's agriculture sector.

The workshops achieved strong engagement and industry impact:

- 65 participants across seven regional workshops held throughout the state.
- 100% of participants surveyed reported the sessions were beneficial.
- Participants cited increased confidence, improved digital decision-making, and clearer understanding of regionally relevant AgTech solutions.
- Guest speakers from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), TNQ Drought Hub, Central Highlands Development Corporation, and industry groups enhanced workshop value and connected participants to ongoing support.
- The project met all KPIs and established a scalable foundation for future industry-led digital innovation initiatives, reinforcing QFF's leadership in workforce transformation and AgTech capacity building.

Industry Workforce Advisor

Through participation in over 150 industry events and direct engagement with more than 8,000 stakeholders, the Industry Workforce Advisor (IWA) collaborated to align workforce strategies with the real needs of the industry.

The IWA also worked one-on-one with over 200 agribusinesses, helping them develop tailored workforce plans to strengthen employment practices, clarify roles, and support long-term workforce sustainability.

Industry Skills Advisor

QFF hosted the Industry Skills Advisor (ISA) for agribusiness in Queensland to support businesses in navigating the vocational education and training (VET) system and access subsidised training and incentives.

In 2024-25, the ISA engaged with 75 stakeholders, established four industry-specific reference groups, and supported the development of four Action Plans. The ISA also provided Queensland-specific advice on seven Jobs & Skills Council (JSC) projects, contributing to two Technical Committees and one Steering Committee.

The role helped identify emerging trends, resolve training barriers, and strengthen connections between industry, government, and Skills Insight. A key outcome was stronger alignment between state and national workforce planning, driven by the skills reform model introduced in July 2024. The ISA role concluded in December 2024.

SmartAg Queensland

SmartAg Queensland, funded by the Queensland Government, and delivered by the Queensland Farmers' Federation, CANEGROWERS, Cotton Australia and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, continues to build momentum as a leading workforce initiative for Queensland's plant-based industries. The project supported 2,230 places in safety training, 198 places in business

training, 177 places in production training and 28 places in technology training. This broad reach has enabled regional producers to upskill and adapt to evolving workforce demands.

Highlights from the 2024-25 activities of SmartAg Queensland



55 women

participated in SHINE, a female farmers' business bootcamp



17 job seekers

took part in Sugarcane Haulout Operator Training and secured employment



180 people

attended Cotton Picker Operator Training, an industry led training initiative



108 growers

attended business training under the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers initiative, Geared Up Growers.

In 2024-25, SmartAg supported more than 2,600 training placements across 80 locations in Queensland. Training was delivered across 30 different course types.

Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program

The Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program (AEWPP) is a fast-tracked pathway designed to build the extension capability of early career professionals in agriculture and natural resource management. The program develops a skilled workforce that helps landholders improve productivity and adopt best management practices.

In January 2024, QFF recruited eight trainees for the latest intake who graduated from the program after their 15-month placement in May 2025. The 2025 cohort of nine trainees began their placements in January 2025.

Since its inception as a pilot in 2017, the AEWPP has supported and upskilled 31 agricultural advisors, with a further nine trainees currently progressing through the program.

Agricultural Digital Support Work Placement Program

The Agricultural Digital Support Work Placement Program (ADSWPP) delivers practical training and on-the-ground capacity building for early career professionals seeking to develop digital technology skills for the agricultural sector. By increasing the availability of AgTech expertise, the program supports broader adoption of digital tools across Queensland's agriculture industry.

Over 12 months, seven AgTech Officers were placed with host organisations providing technical and agronomic services to agribusinesses. These placements offered hands-on training and mentoring, equipping participants with the real-world experience needed to drive digital innovation on farm.

Natural resource management and environment

There is growing demand for food and agricultural products to be produced using environmentally responsible practices, with increasing economic value placed on natural capital.

Farmers and the broader agriculture sector must be supported to maintain productivity and profitability while preserving Queensland's natural environment and pursuing opportunities in natural capital.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Ensuring emission reduction strategies are integrated within an overarching climate adaptation strategy, rather than addressed in isolation.
2. Advocating for stronger environmental scheme inclusions for farmers, including methodologies that support improved emissions benchmarking and grandfathering clauses to recognise landholders who have proactively reduced emissions.
3. Advocating for continued investment, at or above current levels, in voluntary Best Management Practice (BMP) programs.

Our advocacy highlights

- ▶ Proposed transparent offset frameworks to align agricultural production with environmental outcomes, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and ministerial staff.
- ▶ Advocated for the protection of vital resources such as water and productive land to promote sustainable agriculture and environmental resilience. Through strong government and stakeholder engagement, QFF ensured agriculture's voice remained central in shaping natural capital policy and environmental market opportunities.
- ▶ Recommended strengthening the Soil Carbon method through iterative improvements, highlighted in QFF's submission to the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee's periodic review of the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme's Soil Organic Carbon method, 2021.
- ▶ QFF continued ongoing advocacy efforts to protect the Great Artesian Basin, one of the state's most precious water-producing assets.

Projects

Drought Climate Adaptation Program

This industry-led project works closely with producers to assess the benefits, risks, and trade-offs of emerging opportunities that support a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector. These opportunities help farmers diversify income streams and manage climate-related risks by accessing markets that reward environmental stewardship, such as increased carbon sequestration through vegetation and soils, as well as other environmental credit options.

The project will conclude in September 2026, delivering practical tools and resources to support landholders in making informed decisions about participating in environmental market opportunities.

Key highlights:

- **Case studies:** Completed four producer case studies examining the perceived risks, benefits, and overall value of engaging in natural capital income diversification opportunities.
- **Market mapping:** Mapped and quantified environmental credit opportunities in Queensland's cropping zones, identifying the optimal timing for farmers to consider participation in credit schemes.
- **Decision-support tools:** Developing farm-level tools, using downscaled approaches to help producers assess the feasibility and profitability of on-farm income diversification through environmental credit markets.



Natural Capital Markets Community of Practice

QFF continued to co-chair the Natural Capital Markets Community of Practice (CoP), reflecting its expanded focus and the growing opportunities in emerging environmental markets. Since 2021, the CoP has met quarterly online, bringing together staff from regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations, QFF and its members (including Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, Cotton Australia, and CANEGROWERS), and Landcare.

Participants work closely with landholders and team leaders to help shape strategic direction within their organisations. The meetings provide a platform to hear from guest speakers about emerging natural capital markets, such as carbon farming, nature repair, and environmental offsets. Participants also share resources, information and insights, while staying updated on developments from the Natural Capital Branch of the Department of Environment, Science, Tourism and Innovation (DETSI), which oversees the implementation of the Land Restoration Fund.

This network remains a valuable reference point for DETSI funding and ongoing support, helping capture regional intelligence and strengthen engagement with landholders.

Highlights:

- Continued building in-house capability within regional NRM organisations and agricultural industry bodies to better support landholders in making informed decisions about emerging Natural Capital Markets, including carbon farming.
- Provided entry-level information for NRM regions and industries not yet involved in these markets.
- Improved access to and sharing of high-quality information with knowledge brokers, supported by targeted and appropriate training.
- Explored ways to strengthen staff engagement and create more opportunities for landholders, NRM organisations, and agricultural industry bodies.
- Shared strategies for more effective engagement with landholders and other key land managers.



Biosecurity

Effective biosecurity management is critical for farmers and the agricultural supply chain, particularly in 2024-25 as biosecurity risks continue to rise after three decades of escalation.

These risks can escalate into biosecurity events, causing sudden, catastrophic impacts on farming enterprises – from shutdowns to market losses, even for farms far from the infected premises. They

also disrupt supply chains, with flow-on effects for regional economies and businesses.

QFF monitors current and emerging threats, addresses gaps in capacity and capability, identifies critical infrastructure, and engages decision makers to ensure agriculture plays an influential role in shaping future biosecurity policies.

Our top 3 priorities

1. Engagement and advocacy with key decision makers to ensure that agriculture has a key and influential role in shaping future biosecurity policies.
2. Improving biosecurity preparedness in the agriculture sector: Being aware of current and emerging threats and responding effectively to mitigate potential impacts.
3. Monitoring information and raising awareness to farmers as well as external stakeholders including government, power companies, and other parties requiring farm access.

Our advocacy highlights

Input into current outbreaks

In 2024-25 QFF was involved in the taskforces and meetings of several new and ongoing biosecurity incursions across Queensland and Australia including fire ants, varroa mite in bees, tomato brown fruit rugose virus and oriental fruit fly. Together with our members, we met regularly with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce and the National Fire Ant Eradication Program to address the ongoing presence of fire ants in South East Queensland. This included workshops on fire ant risk analysis for bulk loose materials to get common approaches for movement control of these carriers in different jurisdictions.

In bees, which are essential for pollination in many fruits and vegetables, QFF has continued to monitor the presence of Varroa destructor since it was identified in South East Queensland in March 2025.

QFF engaged with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) following the detection of Oriental Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait in early 2025. This detection came after the June 2024 closure of the Cape York Biosecurity Centre,

which is now under review, with QFF contributing to the process.

QFF is also monitoring the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Australia's southern states after its detection in August 2024. We continue to work with government and industry to maintain market access to New Zealand, despite the National Management Group's June 2025 decision declaring the virus endemic.

In addition, QFF participated in two workshops on industry-led surveillance models to strengthen the coverage and confidence in demonstrating proof of freedom for plant industries – a critical factor in securing interstate and overseas market access.

QFF has been active in preparedness meetings for the potential of high probability overseas threats of the destructive avian influenza virus (bird flu) H5N1. QFF attended a two-day summit organised by the Australian Chicken Meat Federation to plan for such an event in August 2024.



▀ Submissions and hearings

In 2024-25, QFF contributed to several Federal Government action plans, strategies and reviews, including the Draft National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan, the Review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB), the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Chemical Review of Paraquat and Diquat, and the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy which is currently under review and scheduled for finalisation in mid-2027.

▀ Significant stakeholder engagement

Participation in national and state planning for agriculture and biosecurity including:

- Biosecurity Partners forums
- Energy Charter Social Licence panel
- Prosper 2050 – a 25-year blueprint for Queensland's industries
- Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025 - 2030
- Biosecurity emergency response exercises including Exercise Safeguard

Participation in stakeholder and liaison groups including:

- Animal Biosecurity Market Access Liaison Group
- Poultry Health Liaison Group
- Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce

Projects

Intensive Animal Industries Policy Officer – Collaborative Deed

Intensive Animals Roadmap 2025-35

The Intensive Animal Industries Roadmap was finalised in 2025 to provide a clear, strategic pathway for the sector. The roadmap is designed to align priorities, reduce risk and support the sustainable growth of intensive animal industries.

It identifies four key pathways:

1. Land use management and planning
2. Animal health, welfare, and biosecurity
3. Market demand and supply
4. Value-based food production – sustainability, best practice, and trust.

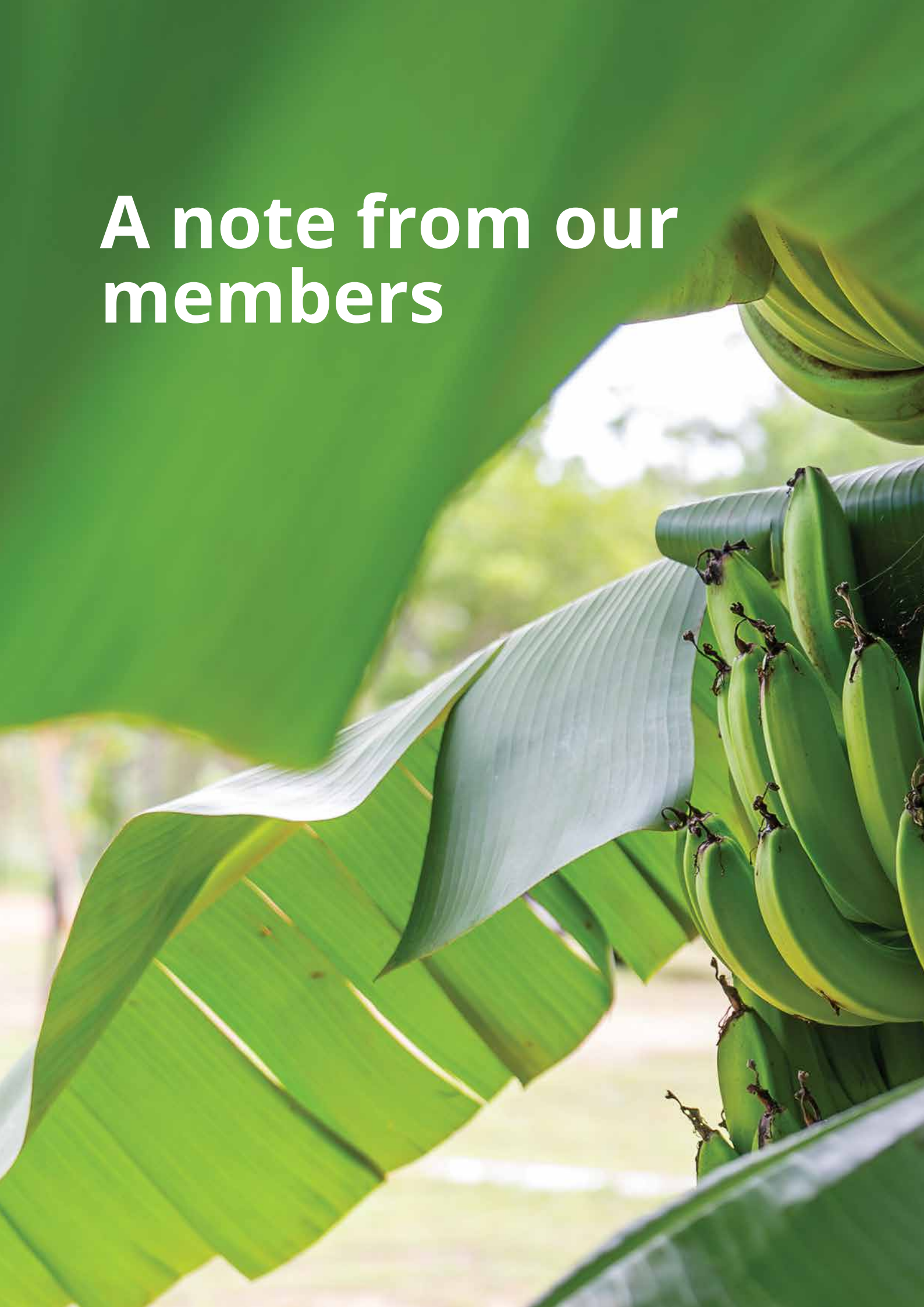
Agriculture and Biosecurity Coordination Officer Project

Biosecurity Visioning Workshop: 1 April 2025

The workshop, facilitated by Steve Tighe, introduced QFF members and senior government biosecurity leaders to new approaches for preparing for future risks and opportunities. It provided tools to help identify threats at an early stage before they escalate into harder-to-manage issues.



A note from our members





A note from CANEGROWERS



Dan Galligan
CEO

The 2024–25 year brought plenty of challenges, but also real opportunities, for Queensland's sugarcane farming families.

CANEGROWERS stayed focused on making sure growers' voices were listened to and that their resilience was matched by practical support from government and industry.

Many of our achievements during the year were made possible through the strong partnership we share with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, which continues to amplify the collective voice of agriculture.

This united approach was especially important in a year when the crushing season again exposed just how dependent farm families are on mill performance.

Delays caused not only financial strain but also a heavy emotional burden. It was a stark reminder that farm businesses cannot carry the load on their own – they need reliable industry partners and policies that take farm risk into account.

CANEGROWERS' advocacy continued to achieve results for members and the industry more broadly.

Following the devastation caused by widespread flooding across North Queensland, disaster recovery policies were revised by both the state and federal governments in response to the united advocacy of CANEGROWERS and our partners at QFF.

Recovery grants were increased and application deadlines extended, the real costs of rebuilding were acknowledged, and replanting support was introduced for flood-hit growers for the first time.

Those measures gave immediate relief, but more importantly, they showed the value of farmers speaking with one strong voice when it matters most.

We also put significant effort into the future of the industry, with Sugar Cubed 2025 highlighting the potential of sugarcane in new markets – from biofuels and bioplastics to renewable energy.

These aren't just ideas, they are real opportunities to build resilience and keep Queensland agriculture at the cutting edge.

Our policy work on energy and fuel added weight to the

broader conversation about farming's role in the state's low-carbon future.

On the political front, CANEGROWERS' state election campaign reminded Queensland of sugarcane's importance to the economy and to regional communities.

With a new Premier who grew up in a cane-farming family, we now have the chance to push for reforms that will make a real difference in rural Queensland.

We also launched new education resources, putting the story of cane back into classrooms and helping young Queenslanders appreciate the place of agriculture in their state's prosperity.

Looking ahead, CANEGROWERS will continue to back innovation, strengthen resilience, and make sure cane farming families – the backbone of regional Queensland – have every chance to thrive.



A note from Cotton Australia



Michael Murray
General Manager

The 2024/25 Queensland cotton season was a successful one despite some challenging weather across the season in different parts of the growing region. Our growers were positive in October during the traditional planting period with good conditions including soil profiles, moisture content and water allocations with a price that still represented a profitable potential outcome with all its flow-on benefits.

Our growers in the Central Highlands were experiencing good early growth after August planting while in the Dawson and Callide Valleys full allocations helped growers to a positive start to the season. The Darling Downs had some early rain, but cooler conditions saw some delay planting while rainfall also helped in the MacIntyre. The lower temperatures also hampered planting in St George, Dirranbandi and Mungindi. Picking was mixed for some growers with rain at the wrong time impacting colour and quality resulting in some downgrades.

The June projections for the season were positive and certainly beneficial to every rural and regional cotton community with an estimate of 1,375,000 bales, and when combined with cotton seed, an estimated total of around \$920 million generated, with most of that flowing back into growing communities in supplies and services. The increase is significant at nearly 7% on income generated alone. One notable element to the year was the success of the Far North Queensland growers. The seasonal rains and conditions resulted in one of their best seasons yet.

The mood was certainly reflective of the positive sentiment at the Cotton Conference held in August last year, attracting more attendees than ever before. More than 2,900 people attended the event on the Gold Coast from August 6 to 8, 2024.

The knowledge sharing was a key highlight for many at the conference, with 160 speakers and panellists on hand, and 26 Chairs guiding 29 individual sessions. Another impressive aspect of the 2024 Cotton Conference was the largest ever trade display, featuring more than 120 exhibitors and prompting conference organisers to arrange additional space.

The major evening event was the gala dinner where the winners of the 2024 Cotton Industry Awards were announced. Queenslanders did themselves proud with Scott Balsillie, farm manager for Eastern Australia

Agriculture in Dirranbandi taking out the Bayer Grower of the Year award while the AgriRisk High Achiever award recipients were Steve and Bridget McVeigh, from Dalby on the Darling Downs.

The following March, Scott hosted the Bayer Grower of the Year Field Day at Clyde, and it was one of the largest and most successful Field Days ever held in the region with hundreds making their way to the location to celebrate the success of the farm and to hear all about the innovation and hard work that goes towards being an award recipient.

Our engagement process provided highlights with the EKKA again attracting thousands to our prominent exhibit, including the Prime Minister himself. It was also pleasing to host political leaders and their senior advisors from both sides of politics for the annual dinner briefings which provided an opportunity to brief our leaders on the status of cotton but also the desired policy outcomes. We acknowledge the change in government in Queensland with the LNP being voted in after years of Labor leadership. We pride ourselves on maintaining good relations with all politicians and enjoyed hosting the now Premier and the Labor opposition at separate events during the calendar year.

Our collaboration with QFF and a number of other organisations proved invaluable during the year. We welcomed the government reissuing licences for another 3 years for the Dawson Valley Strategic Water Infrastructure Reserve. This adds to the 7-year history which underpins the cotton industry in the area and the long-term viability of the Moura Gin.

We also recognise the first 4-year operation for SmartAg Queensland which has provided valuable training in a wide range of courses. We will be advocating for more funding to keep this valuable program going, as the cotton industry shares the challenge of workforce availability with most in the agricultural sector.

A note from Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers



Rachel Chambers
CEO

The 2024–25 financial year brought both challenges and cautious optimism for Queensland horticulture.

Widespread weather events early in the season impacted the majority of growers across the state, but easing conditions in many regions have revitalised parts of the sector. The broad consultation behind the DPI Blueprint for Primary Industries — Prosper 2050 — has also given industry a clearer roadmap and reason for renewed confidence in the sector's future growing fruit, vegetable, and nuts in the State.

Disaster remains a defining issue. ABARES data confirms what growers have long experienced: 67% of crop losses in Queensland are due to factors outside a grower's control, predominantly weather-related. With the prospect of more frequent and intense events, recent government changes to the definition of a primary producer and adjustments to replanting assistance were welcome steps. We have secured important policy wins in disaster recovery, but our work is not done — strengthening resilience and ensuring recovery mechanisms are timely and fit for purpose must remain a priority.

The ACCC's Supermarket Inquiry articulated many of the operational pressures within our complex supply chain. Of its 20 recommendations, 11 have particular relevance for horticulture and could significantly affect growers if implemented poorly. QFVG is working productively with stakeholders, including Treasury, to ensure reforms protect producer interests and avoid unintended consequences. In this space, Queensland's Food Farmers' Commissioner has become a valuable independent resource for growers navigating market and regulatory challenges.

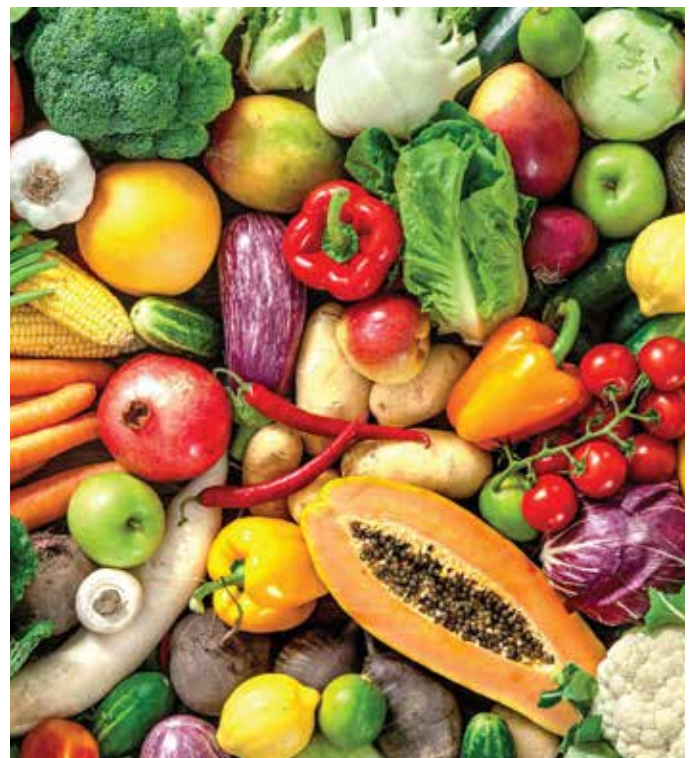
Workforce complexity continues to constrain productivity and long-term viability. Seasonal labour availability, retention and skills gaps, combined with rising labour costs and volatile market returns, require practical, flexible solutions. We will continue advocating for policies that recognise the seasonal nature of fresh-produce production and advocate for horticulture-specific relevant, useful and practical workforce solutions.

Transport and logistics remain an ongoing pressure point.

Rising freight costs, inconsistent network reliability and limited access to timely transport all erode margins and market access; securing targeted infrastructure investment and improving coordination across jurisdictions is essential.

Hort Connections, hosted in Brisbane, reinforced the value of national forums for sharing innovation and building relationships. The QFVG team's presence — and the support of our QFF colleagues — strengthened cross-jurisdictional collaboration and practical problem-solving.

Finally, our greatest strength has been unity. Coming together at the QFF table lets diverse commodities share challenges and opportunities, fostering frank, practical conversations. Thank you QFF family for another productive year around the table.



A note from Greenlife Industry Queensland



Colin Fruk
CEO

The 2024/25 year has been one of reform and repositioning for Greenlife Industry Queensland (GIQ). At a time of shifting markets, ongoing biosecurity pressures, and policy uncertainty, GIQ has modernised its operations and strengthened its advocacy platform. The association is now better placed to represent Queensland's \$1 billion greenlife and nursery industry with credibility, confidence, and influence.

A central part of this transformation has been the introduction of stronger governance, which is helping ensure that organisational decisions are sound, transparent and sustainable. This renewed discipline provides a stronger foundation for long-term investment in industry priorities and advocacy.

GIQ has elevated its voice through a new advocacy platform, Our Growth Agenda: Policy Priorities for a Flourishing Nursery Sector. Developed in consultation with growers and allied partners, the platform sets out six industry priorities: fire ant management, levy transparency, small business support, fairer supply chain treatment, climate resilience, and national urban greening. Already this work is paying dividends. Sustained industry pressure on Bunnings Warehouse led to the adoption of a transparent trading framework for greenlife suppliers, a significant step forward in ensuring fairer commercial conditions. This success demonstrates the power of collective representation in shaping outcomes across the supply chain. At the same time, GIQ has pushed for reform of fire ant biosecurity rules, the establishment of an industry-based Fire Ant Education Officer, and stronger recognition of nurseries in climate resilience and disaster recovery policy. The association has also positioned itself within the urban greening agenda, with early engagement around Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure opportunities.

These advocacy gains are matched by a reinvigorated approach to sector engagement. The Queensland Garden Show, held in July 2024 put a spotlight on greenlife, achieving stronger exhibitor support and an enhanced visitor experience. The Show continues to demonstrate significant value to both industry and the

wider community. Meanwhile, Green Expo maintains its status as Queensland's premier greenlife trade platform, with plans to expand into the future through collaborative partnerships with similar organisations, in order to broaden its reach and impact. Complementing these in-person events, GIQ's online webinar series has provided timely, practical guidance for nursery operators on compliance, workforce and business improvement.

Simultaneously, GIQ has strengthened its program delivery. The Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP) was successfully completed ahead of schedule and exceeding participation targets. This program remains a cornerstone of GIQ's service delivery, linking nurseries to essential business and climate resilience support. Alongside this, GIQ has launched a comprehensive Essential Business Services program, giving members access to unlimited expert advice across critical areas such as human resources, workplace health and safety, financial management, business sales and valuations, marketing, and productivity improvement. Delivered through a panel of trusted partners, the program ensures nurseries can access high-quality, practical expertise when they need it most.

Taken together, these initiatives position GIQ as a stronger, more influential force for Queensland's nursery industry. In the year ahead, the association will focus on securing fire ant reform, implementing a new and improved FBRP, gaining a foothold in upcoming Olympic greening contracts, consolidating fairer trading conditions across retail, enhancing our signature industry events, and embedding Essential Business Services into our engagement with industry. By pressing this agenda, GIQ stands ready to guide Queensland's greenlife sector toward a more resilient, profitable, and sustainable future.

GIQ acknowledges the invaluable support of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, whose policy advice, government connections, and peer-to-peer collaboration with other agricultural peak bodies continue to strengthen GIQ's advocacy and amplify its impact across the broader farm sector.

Our 2024-25 submissions

Biosecurity



Submission to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Draft National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan – August 2024.

Submission to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity – September 2024.

Environment



Submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority – Paraquat and Diquat Proposed Regulatory Changes – October 2024.

Submission to Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation – Destination 2045: Queensland's Tourism Future (Discussion Paper) – February 2025.

Submission to the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee – Review of ACCU Scheme's Soil Organic Carbon method 2021 – April 2025.

Energy



Submission to the Department of Energy and Climate – Draft Renewables Regulatory Framework – January 2025.

Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator – Energy Queensland (Ergon and Energex) Revised Regulatory Proposals and Revised Tariff Structure Statements 2025-30 (January 2025) – January 2025.

Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – Interim Consultation Paper (ICP) on the notified electricity prices for regional Queensland 2025-26 – January 2025.

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia – Energy, food and water Security – January 2025.

Submission to Queensland Treasury – Budget submission: Support for energy literacy and energy efficiency in Queensland agriculture – March 2025.

Submission to Coexistence Queensland – Coexistence Queensland's Decommission Guide – April 2025.

Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) – Regulated electricity prices for regional Queensland 2025-26 – April 2025.

Farm Viability and Food Security



Submission to the Department of Primary Industries – Primary Industries Prosper 2025 (the Blueprint) – June 2025.

Summary submission to the Department of Primary Industries – Primary Industries Prosper 2025 (the Blueprint) – June 2025.

Land Use Planning



Submission to the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority – 100-day Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure – January 2025.

Submission to the Renewable Energy Planning Group, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning – Changes to Queensland Planning Framework – June 2025.

Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee – Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025 – May 2025.

Water



QFF Submission to Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – Gulf Water Plan Review July 2024 – July 2024.

Submission to Queensland Competition Authority – Irrigation Price Investigation 2025-2029 – September 2024.

Submission to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Consultation on draft principles of a National Water Agreement (Discussion Paper) (September 2024) – September 2024.

Submission to Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – Central Queensland Water Plan – November 2024.

Submission to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance – Northern Basin Toolkit Inquiry – December 2024.

Risk, recovery and resilience



Submission to Senate Select Committee – Senate Select Committee on the Impact of Climate Risk on Insurance Premiums and Availability – July 2024.

Workforce



Submission to Department of Home Affairs – Review of Regional Migration Settings – August 2024.

Submission to Safe Work Australia – Code of Practice Managing Fatigue – November 2024.

Submission to Workplace Health Safety Queensland – Rural Plant Code of Practice Webinar – March 2025.

Scan the code or go to
qff.org.au/advocacy/submissions/
to read the submissions



Industry members

Commodity members



Irrigator members



CENTRAL DOWNS
IRRIGATORS LIMITED (CDIL)



PIONEER VALLEY
WATER CO-OPERATIVE
LIMITED (PVWATER)



Corporate partners

QFF introduced our Corporate Partners Program in 2022-23 to build strong partnerships within industry, across sectors and with private enterprise to deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes for Queensland agriculture and regional communities.

Thank you to QFF's Corporate Partners for their ongoing support. For more information, please visit www.qff.org.au/qff-corporate-partners/





QUEENSLAND
FARMERS'
FEDERATION

Level 8, 183 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 12009 Brisbane QLD 4003
07 3837 4720

www.qff.org.au