## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING LEGISLATION

A Guide for Queensland Rural Landholders



# REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Land tenure, planning, environment protection, land use and natural resource management.

This guide provides information for farmers and others involved in the agricultural sector on environment and planning legislation, regulations and policies that affect the way they carry out their businesses.

It does NOT include legal requirements affecting animal welfare, workplace health and safety or food safety. Other pieces of applicable Queensland legislation NOT covered in this document are listed in Appendix 1.

Legislation needs to be understood in the light of common law rights and obligations of landholders. The basic right of a landholder at common law is to use their property as they wish as long as they do not interfere with their neighbours and comply with the requirements of legislation. Landholders have a duty of care not to cause foreseeable harm to their neighbours. This duty applies to the activities that landholders undertake of their own choice but also applies in respect to taking action to manage the hazard from such things as pest plants and animals or fire that come naturally to the property.

In addition to the common law duty of care, there are also statutory duties such as the duty of care to the land in the *Land Act 1994* for occupiers of State land, the general environmental duty in the *Environment Protection Act 1994* and the duty to not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

The introductory section describes the various requirements as they apply to the range of farm management activities normally associated with the operation of an agricultural enterprise. Table 1 provides more detailed information on each piece of legislation.



Queensland Farmers' Federation 2015.
Environmental Management and Planning Legislation – a guide for Queensland rural landholders. QFF, Brisbane.

© Copyright 2015 Queensland Farmers' Federation

This work is Copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without the written permission from Queensland Farmers' Federation. Requests and enquires concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to

Queensland Farmers' Federation, PO Box 12009 BRISBANE QLD 4003 or qfarmers@qff.org.au.



legislation and regulations is available through the Office of the

Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

## If you ▶

- are grazing stock on State-Owned land:
  - · Grazing on rural leasehold land

The Land Act 1994 outlines the processes to be undertaken when dealing with State land.

The landholder manages the allocated land in accordance with the conditions of the lease which covers the land. Under the Act, a person has a 'duty of care' to the land. A person breaches this legal obligation if they do not take 'reasonable steps' to avoid land degradation.

#### Grazing on State Forest

The grazing of stock is permitted on State Forests under the provisions of a stock grazing permit issued under the *Forestry Act 1959* or a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994*.

#### · Grazing or moving stock on the Stock Route network

The movement or grazing of stock on the Stock Route network is controlled by relevant parts of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.

are moving stock from your property to another place:

The *Stock Act 1915* outlines the processes to be undertaken when transporting or selling stock.

 intend changing land use from agriculture to another use or introducing additional land use activities

Land use changes (material change of use or MCU) in Queensland are regulated under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SPA)*. In general there are no development approvals required for the establishment of a farming enterprise in a rural area in *Local Planning Schemes*, however there are exceptions:

- 'Broadacre cropping' is a regulated activity in Strategic Environmental Areas under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014.
- Development for intensive uses such as for a feedlot, piggery or other intensive animal facility or intensive horticulture will require a development approval.
- Establishment or expansion of a farming enterprise in a residential or rural-residential or commercial area will require development approval.
- Forestry for wood production (i.e. timber plantations) in a rural zone can be made self or code assessable by a planning scheme, in which case a mandatory code will apply.
- Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable development in a Rural Zone/
  Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there
  will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct such as providing for
  setbacks from boundaries and maximum heights for any buildings and structures.

Farm diversification activities involving SPA regulated development (e.g. tourism accommodation; camping; intensive animal husbandry) in a coastal management district under the *Coastal Management and Protection Act 1995* are assessable development.

For State leasehold land, under the *Land Act 1994* a lease may only be used for the purpose for which it is issued. However, the Act allows certain additional purposes to be undertaken where those uses are complementary to the original grazing and agricultural purpose of the lease. A leaseholder may apply to renew a lease or convert the lease to another tenure.

#### Development in a State Development Area

While current uses are unaffected in State Development Areas such as Bromelton, Gladstone and Abbott Point, proposals for land use change require approval from the Coordinator-General under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971.

#### are facing a proposal for mining or gas development on your property

Resource activities must obtain a Regional Interests Development Approval under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* before they commence activities on properties where a regional interest has been mapped. A regional interest on agricultural land is a Priority Agricultural Area and a Strategic Cropping Area.

All resource activities must enter into a Conduct and Compensation Agreement with the landholder under the *Land Access Framework* prior to entering a property and commencing work and are subject to the requirements of a range of resources legislation not covered in this guideline.

#### - are undertaking earthworks or quarrying activities

Quarrying of sand, rock or gravel on freehold land for commercial use requires an approval from your local government.

High impact earthworks in wetland protection areas and works adjacent to a declared Fish Habitat Area may impact on the values and functions of the area and are assessable development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Earthworks associated with drainage, quarrying or pondage banks in a coastal management district under the *Coastal Management and Protection Act 1995* are assessable development.

#### intend to clear vegetation for production or to construct a fence or to control pests

#### General

Native vegetation clearing is regulated through the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. Some clearing activities such as maintaining fence lines and constructing firebreaks to protect infrastructure are exempt under the framework and do not need approval.

#### · Clearing for high-value agriculture

Vegetation management laws allow for the clearing of native vegetation for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture purposes with a permit. Note that clearing to improve the operational efficiency of existing agricultural land may be covered by a self-assessable vegetation clearing code.

#### Clearing in a watercourse

Clearing or interfering with vegetation on the banks or in a watercourse is controlled by the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

#### Clearing for weed or pest management

Clearing or interfering with vegetation to control non-native plants or pests is self-assessable under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 against the Weed Control Code.

#### Constructing a fence

If constructing a new fence involves interfering with endangered or of concern Regional Ecosystems, a development approval is required under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. If a new fenceline intersects an area defined as *critical habitat* a permit is required under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

#### • Clearing marine plants

Clearing or interfering with marine vegetation, including mangroves, is controlled by the Fisheries Act 1994.

#### • Clearing nationally threatened species

Clearing or interfering with nationally threatened species and ecological communities is controlled by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cmwlth)*.

#### Clearing koala habitat trees

The method of clearing koala habitat trees is controlled by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.



All resource activities must enter into a Conduct and Compensation Agreement with the landholder



- intend to harvest native plants or animals on your

Harvesting of native timber on freehold land is regulated by the vegetation management framework under the Vegetation Management Act 1999. A native forest practice is self-assessable in accordance

1959 and must comply with the terms and conditions of a sales permit issued under this Act. This includes the requirement for the harvesting to comply with the Code of practice for native forest timber

commercial harvesting of a range of protected animals. The most significant ecologically sustainable use program in Queensland is the commercial macropod-harvesting program.

are managing pest plants and animals

Landowner obligations to control and manage declared plants and animals are currently set out in the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 until the Biosecurity Act 2014 comes into force. The Act also enables local governments to enforce the management of declared weeds and pest animals. Some local governments also use local laws for the control of weeds and pest animals of local significance.

- are using agricultural chemicals

The use and management of agricultural chemicals is regulated by the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988.

- need to use fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads or control weeds

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990 prohibits the lighting of a fire without a Permit to Light a Fire issued by a fire warden. Under nuisance provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 a local government may also have in place a local law restricting or prohibiting the lighting of a fire in part or all of the local government area..

The use of fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads and clearing to maintain fire management lines, fire breaks and fences may be permissible subject to the Vegetation Management Act 1999.

intend accessing surface or underground water

Taking or interfering with water from a watercourse, overland flow, underground, artesian or subartesian source is regulated under the *Water Act 2000*. Works for taking or interfering with water such as dams, weirs, pumps, diversion channels or bores may be considered assessable, self-assessable or exempt development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* framework. All assessable works require development approval.

 need to coordinate soil conservation works and surface run-off across property boundaries

The Soil Conservation Act 1986 provides for the preparation and approval of soil conservation plans that specify the location and design of run-off control structures, particularly involving cross-boundary water flow.

 have indigenous cultural heritage sites or places on your property

There is an obligation for people to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure an activity they are undertaking does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

 are carrying out activities with the potential to cause environmental harm

There is an obligation on people to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure an activity they are undertaking does not cause environmental harm under the *Environmental Protection Act* 1994.

### Then ▶

The following Table provides details of each piece of legislation or regulation with links to further information. For access to the current versions of these pieces of legislation, readers should access the Queensland Government legislation website. http://www.legislation.gld.gov.au/OQPChome.htm



## TABLE 1: LEGISLATION RELATING TO LAND USE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
Local	Sustainable Planning Act 2009. Local Government Act 2009.	Cropping and animal husbandry (including extensive grazing) uses are generally exempt activities in a Rural Zone/Precinct in local government planning schemes.  Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable development in a Rural Zone/Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct - such as providing for setbacks from boundaries and maximum heights for any buildings and structures.  In any other zone or precinct, such as a Rural Residential, Residential or Commercial Zone/Precinct, these types of activities will not be exempt and will almost always require approval.  Some Local Government planning schemes require planning approval for intensive farming in sensitive areas, for forestry for wood production (timber plantations) and for farm-diversification activities such as quarrying, tourism accommodation or camping. (See also Sustainable Planning Act 2009).  Local laws  Local laws may regulate the building of structures which include:  levees  contour banks  fences  roads.  Local laws may declare local weeds and pest animals for control or eradication; and control the lighting of fires.	Local Council	Development application fees if proposed use is code or impact assessable	Check local government requirements in local areas.  A local laws database provides information on laws applying to each Local Government area. http://www.dilgp. qld.gov.au/local-government/laws/local-laws-database.html
State	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 Purpose: Provide effective recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.	The Acts protect all indigenous cultural heritage in Queensland.  This protection applies whether or not the cultural heritage has been identified or recorded in a database.  The Act requires anyone who carries out a land-use activity to exercise a duty of care, that is, they must take all reasonable and practical measures to ensure their activity does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.  The duty of care applies to any activity where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is located, including freehold land.  A land management agreement under the Land Act 1994 may include strategies for protecting indigenous cultural heritage values on State rural leasehold land.	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)	No fees	Identifying the cultural heritage values of an area can be difficult. The area may be secret or sacred, incorporated into the landscape or under the soil surface.  The Acts, together with gazetted duty-of-care guidelines, provides guidance on how to proceed.  Landowners can request a Cultural Heritage Database search for any previously recorded cultural heritage in the area of interest.
State	Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998 Purpose: To control the distribution of agricultural chemicals from aircraft and from ground equipment	The Act and Regulation regulate the distribution (spraying, spreading and dispersing) activities of licence holders. Licensed operators must not carry out spraying with equipment or under meteorological conditions that might reasonably be expected to cause damage to off-target crops or livestock.  The Act requires ground or aerial distribution contractors to keep detailed records of each and every spraying operation they direct or authorize to be carried out by licensed operators.  Certain volatile herbicides have restrictions placed on their use in a hazardous area to protect susceptible crops. Hazardous areas have been declared on the Sunshine Coast, the Darling Downs and the Central Highlands	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).	Licence fees apply for obtaining a pilot chemical rating licence or an aerial distribution contractor licence. Fees are listed in the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998 Sch 2.	Detailed guidance on the use and application of agricultural chemicals can be found in the Agricultural Chemical Users Manual https://www.daf.qld. gov.au/data/assets/ pdf_file/0009/54738/ AgChem-UsersManual. pdf

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Agricultural Standards Act 1994  Agricultural Standards Regulation 1997  Purpose: To provide for the making of standards about agriculture by:  • establishing an administrative framework for the making of standards about agriculture and  • providing appropriate powers to ensure the standards are complied with.	<ul> <li>The Act provides for standards to be made about agriculture, including standards that regulate the sale and supply, and limited use aspects, of agricultural requirements (e.g. fertilisers, stock foods and seeds for planting):         <ul> <li>agricultural requirements must be labelled in accordance with a standard or regulation</li> <li>false or misleading statements about agricultural requirements and the certain characteristics in relation to the sale of livestock are prohibited</li> <li>harmful or prohibited substances for agricultural requirements are prescribed under regulation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)	No fees	With commencement of the <i>Biosecurity Act</i> 2014 (prior to 1 July 2016), the <i>Agricultural Standards Act</i> 1994 will be repealed.
State	Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2003 Purpose: Provide for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and management of the coastal zone, including its resources and biological diversity.	<ul> <li>establishing a coastal zone and coastal management district</li> <li>a Coastal Management Plan aimed at protecting and managing coastal values</li> <li>establishing erosion prone areas which are intended to be development-free buffers.</li> <li>The State Planning Policy (under SPA) includes a State Interest - Coastal Environment that provides planning principles and policies for coastal protection and management. Development in a coastal management district is subject to a code for development assessment (SPP Part E).</li> <li>The Act grants the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection responsibility for the allocation of State resources (quarry material) in State coastal land in a coastal management district (except land subject to a lease or licence issued by the State - see Forestry Act).</li> <li>Assessable development</li> <li>Tidal works, quarrying, dredge or solid waste disposal, constructing a waterway in a coastal management district is assessable development under the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 (Schedule 3, Part 1, Table 4 5)</li> </ul>	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)	Development application fees are set out in the Coastal Protection and Management Regulations 2003	The Coastal Act framework is unlikely to apply to extensive grazing or farm management activities.  Coastal development involving SPA regulated development (e.g. tourism accommodation; camping; intensive animal husbandry) may require planning approval from the State and/or Local Government in a coastal management district.
State	Environmental Protection Act 1994  Environmental Protection Regulation 2008  Purpose:  Protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends	The Environmental Protection Act 1994 states that we all have a general environmental duty. This means that we are all responsible for the actions we take that affect the environment.  We must not carry out any activity that causes or is likely to cause environmental harm unless we take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm.  Agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA) (e.g. feedlots or other intensive animal facilities such as a poultry farm) must obtain a licence to operate.  High impact earthworks in a wetland protection area are assessable development under the Sustainable Planning Regulation Sch 3 Part 1, Table 4, 10.	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)	Apart from application and licence fees for ERAs, there are no fees for agricultural activities.	The general environmental duty is a defence to offences related to causing unlawful environmental harm. If a person can show that the harm happened while an activity being carried out was lawful apart from this Act and they fulfilled their general environmental duty, then they cannot be found guilty of causing unlawful environmental harm.

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 Purpose:	A permit is required for lighting a fire in Queensland.  There is an obligation to notify neighbours when applying for a permit.	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	No fees	Information on obtaining a Permit to Light a Fire is available.
	To provide for the prevention of and response to fires and certain other incidents	Certain fires used by primary producers and for industrial purposes do not require a permit. Check with a local Fire Warden regarding exemptions.			https://ruralfire.qld. gov.au/Using_Fire_ Outdoors/Obtaining_a_ Permit_to_Light_Fire/
	endangering persons, property or the environment.	The vegetation management framework under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> includes exemptions for certain activities authorised under the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i> . (Act s 53, 68, 69).			See Schedule 24 of the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 and the Guide to Exemptions under the Vegetation Management framework for further information.
State	Fisheries Act 1994	Queensland's declared fish habitat area (FHA) provides protection for fish habitats that are essential to sustaining Queensland	Department Of National Parks, Sport and Racing		In most cases, provided works remain inside
	Fisheries Regulation 2008	fisheries. Specific declared FHA plans are available.	(DNPSR)		property boundaries
	Purpose:	All development, except self-assessable development, requires			and do not impact on adjacent declared FHA
	Provide for the declaration and management of Fish	approval before activities start in a declared FHA. A resource allocation authority (RAA) issued under the <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> is required, as well as a development approval under the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> .			values and functions, no approval is required.
	Habitat Areas	The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) (see Module 5: Fisheries resources) apply to development proposals in or adjacent to a declared FHA.			
State	Fisheries Act 1994 Fisheries Regulation 2008	disturbance or removal. This means that it is illegal to damage	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)	Development application fees are listed in Fisheries	In most cases, development approvals are only issued if the
	Purpose:	Applications for development approvals under the Sustainable		Regulation Sch 8	disturbance to marine plants and tidal lands
	Provide for the use, conservation and enhancement of the	Planning Act 2009 to remove, damage or disturb marine plants are assessed against the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) (see Module 5: Fisheries resources) and provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994 and policies.		is minimised. In some instances 'offsets' for impacts are negotiated with the applicants.	
	community's fisheries resources and fish habitats	Low-impact development activities or works can be undertaken under a self-assessable code including maintenance of farm drains and structures such as boundary fences, bridges, roads, boat ramps, jetties and walkways.			with the applicants.
		An approval is not required for works performed under a self-assessable code if completed within the code's restrictions.			
State	Forestry Act 1959 & Forestry Regulation 1998	Grazing on State Forest or Timber Reserve	Department of National Parks Sport and Racing	<ul> <li>Licence fees –         Act s55(3)     </li> </ul>	
	Purpose:	The grazing of stock is permitted on State Forests under the provisions of a stock grazing permit issued under the Act.	(DNPSR) and	<ul> <li>Permits &amp; other fees</li> </ul>	
	Provides the mandate for commercial native	Most grazing on State forests and Timber Reserves is authorised under leases issued under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> .	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)	– Act s56; Reg. Sch. 6(8).	
	forest management through the reservation,	Harvesting commercial native timber	(Dill)		
	management, silvicultural treatment and protection of forests on State-owned land.	All timber harvesting operations conducted on State lands must comply with the terms and conditions of a sales permit issued under this Act including compliance with the <i>Code of practice for native forest timber production on the QPWS forest estate 2014</i> .			
		Quarry material			
		Quarry material from State forests, timber reserves, forest entitlement areas and State plantation forests are controlled and marketed by DAF. These areas also include certain roads, leasehold land and freehold land but excludes lakes and watercourses and land below the high water mark in coastal areas, where not subject			
		land below the high water mark in coastal areas, where not subject to a lease under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> .			

Level Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State  Land Act 1994 & Land Regulation 2009  Purpose:  Sustainable use and development of Stateowned land, approprial land evaluation and protection of environmental and cultural features.	Use consistent with the lease purpose Landholders must use the land only for the purpose for which the tenure was issued and must comply with all conditions. Landholders may apply for a change of purpose to their lease and for a change of conditions to their lease, licence or permit to occupy.  In addition, a diversification policy allows certain additional purposes to be undertaken without further amendment of the lease where those uses are complementary to the original grazing and agricultural purpose of the lease. Horticulture, viticulture, broadacre cropping, feedlots, aquaculture, farm forestry and the farming of pigs and poultry are considered "as of right" uses under the definition of agriculture in the Land Act 1994. As such diversification by lessees to these forms of primary production within agricultural leases irrespective of the scale of the enterprise do not require Land Act approval. The policy provides for low key tourism, documentaries and film making, nature conservation activities and/ or vocational training in pastoral activities. The Act also allows leasehold land to be used for additional purposes relating to the production of energy from a renewable source, e.g. sun or wind.  Other approvals and charges Landholders are responsible for obtaining any other required approvals from state or local governments or other authorities, as well as paying any additional fees that may relate to the tenure.  Duty of care  Landholders must maintain the land in good condition, for example by implementing good land management practices and preventing land degradation and contamination.  Lease renewal  Landholders can apply to renew their lease, unless the lease includes terms that specifically exclude renewal. Road licences, occupation licences and permits to occupy cannot be renewed.  You may apply at any time during the term of the lease, except for term leases, which can only be renewed after 80% of the existing term has expired (unless there are special circumstances).  Rolling term lease is a lease i	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)	<ul> <li>Rent for primary production on perpetual leases is calculated by multiplying the averaged land value by 1.5%</li> <li>Rent for primary production on term leases, licences and permits to occupy is calculated by multiplying the averaged land value by 0.75%</li> <li>The annual rent is capped at no more than 10% above the previous year's annual rent</li> <li>Compliance</li> <li>Compliance with lease conditions is stringent (s213).</li> <li>Various conditions need to be met e.g. duty of care conditions; improvement condition (where applicable)</li> <li>Duty of Care obligation s199 is higher than that of common law duty, with multiple statutory requirements.</li> </ul>	Applications are required for additional activities of a non-primary production nature. Landholders should verify whether any additional activities on their lease trigger the need for any development approval from local government or requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Queensland) and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth).  Following an application from the lessee for an additional purpose, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will undertake a native title assessment of the leased land to determine if, and how, native title may need to be addressed. Depending upon the outcome, the leaseholder (as a condition of the offer) may be required to satisfactorily address any identified native title issues.  Further information on land tenure in Queensland is available from the DNRM website.

Level Instr	rument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
and S Mana Land (Pest Mana Regul Purpo To reg Stock for su	d Protection (Pest Stock Route ragement) Act 2002 d Protection t Stock Route ragement) ulation 2003 rose: regulate use of the regulate use of the rade resource ragement.	Stock Route management: For moving stock over stock routes a stock route travel permit is required (s133).  Exceptions to obtaining a permit are:  If stock are driven on foot:  (a) for not more than 1 day; and  (b) in clear daylight hours; and  (c) for animal husbandry or property management purposes; and  (d) Between parcels of land having common ownership or worked as a single unit.  Persons without a permit may receive a \$500 fine.  A person can also apply for a stock route agistment permit for relevant land in the local government's area. Applications can only be made by:  1) a landowner of land affected by drought, fire or flood  2) a person travelling stock under a stock route travel permit  These permits may have requirements around fencing, signs to show cattle on road, insurance and water availability.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) Permits are issued by Local Councils	The fee payable for a stock route agistment permit is to be reasonable with consideration for  the type of country and the stock  the quality of pasture  the accessibility of water  Fees for stock movement or agistment are set out in the Land Protection (Pest Stock Route Management)  Regulation 2003 Sch 5.	The Queensland Government shares responsibility for the management of the stock route network with local governments.  Some grazing access is administered under the Land Act 1994, while the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Stock Act 1915 also include provisions affecting network management.  For food safety and animal health traceability, any stock moved off-property must be registered through the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). Every time that stock (cattle, sheep, goats) moves to a property with a different property identification code, or to a feedlot, saleyard, abattoir or other location, the PIC it moved from and to is recorded on the database so a 'life history' of movements for that animal is established.



Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003 Purpose: To control pest plants and animals	Pest management  Local governments are responsible for ensuring control of declared weeds and pest animals on all private and public land in their area, including the 72,000 km stock route network.  Declared pests can be announced in Regulation. and by emergency declaration under the Act.  Current pests of interest to cattle producers:  Class 2 pests:  cat, other than a domestic cat  dingo  dog, other than a domestic dog  European fox  feral pig  goat, other than a domestic goat  parthenium  prickly acacia  giant rats tail grass  rubbervine  Obligation of landowners  A landowner must take reasonable steps to keep land free of class 1 and class 2 pests, unless the owner holds a declared pest permit.  Class 1 or class 2 pests cannot be moved from one place to another unless a Weed Hygiene Declaration is provided between the parties covering "things" contaminated with Class 2 prescribed weeds.  Destruction of dogs  Under s95, if an owner of land that is not in an urban district, or an authorised person, reasonably believes a dog on the land is not under someone's control and is attacking, or is about to attack stock on the land, then the authorised person or owner may destroy the dog. Compensation is not payable for that destruction.	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) though local government;	Fees are set out in the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003 Sch 5.  All compliance costs fall onto the producer, with the need to control and manage pests within their landholdings.  If a producer does not comply with s 77, they may receive a pest control notice (s 78).  If there is non-compliance with the notice a pest controller may be able to enter the property to take action on that pest.  Landholders need to comply with a control notice for Class 3 pests — if they are adjacent to Environmentally Significant Areas.	Information on the Act is available here.  The Queensland Weed Strategy and Queensland Pest animal Strategy set the overall strategic direction for declared weed and pest animal management in Queensland.  Local Government Pest Area Management Plans provide the community with pest management priorities for local areas.  While it is not a legislative requirement the development of a Property Pest Management Plan or the inclusion of weed and pest animal actions in best management practice documentation may be a useful tool for landholders to show how they meet the obligations of landowners under s 77 of the Act. A property pest management plan is developed and implemented by a landowner and should be consistent with local/regional pest management priorities and plans.  The new Biosecurity Act 2014 was passed in March 2014 and will come into effect by 1 July 2016.



Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Nature Conservation Act 1992 Purpose: The conservation of nature	Much of Queensland's native wildlife is protected by legislation to ensure its survival and to protect biodiversity. All native birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians are protected in Queensland.  Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 lists protected plants and animals.  Permits are required under Nature Conservation Act 1992 s 89(1).  Harvesting of animals  Commercial harvesting of animals involves the taking of animals from the wild for a commercial purpose. The Nature Conservation Act 1992 allows for the commercial harvesting of a range of protected animals. The most significant ecologically sustainable use program in Queensland is the commercial macropod-harvesting program.  A licensing system helps protect native wildlife from over-exploitation and the impacts of exotic species. Such controls ensure viable wild populations of plants and animals are maintained and that taking, keeping, using or moving wildlife for commercial, recreational or other purposes is monitored.  Koala habitat  Koala habitat in South East Queensland is protected from development by a range of policy instruments.  Clearing of koala habitat trees in declared areas must comply with the requirements for sequential clearing and koala spotters as set out in the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006.  Nature refuges  A nature refuge is a voluntary agreement between a landholder and the Queensland Government that acknowledges a commitment to manage and preserve land with significant conservation values while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses to continue. Landholders with a nature refuge continue to own and manage their land to generate an income and in keeping with their lifestyle.  Protected Plants Framework  The Protected Plants Flora Survey Trigger Map shows high risk areas for protected plants that are subject to particular requirements under legislation such as the need for flora surveys and clearing permits.  To meet clearing requirements or to be eligible for certain clearing exemptions a copy of th	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)	Fees for licences for harvesting wildlife, taking protected plants or clearing koala habitat trees.	Requirements and processes for creating a nature refuge are set out in the Nature Conservation Act s43-52 and on the DEHP website.
State	Plant Protection Act 1989  Plant Protection  Regulation 2002  Main purposes to:  • prevent, control  or remove pest  infestation of plants  in Queensland;  • help other  jurisdictions prevent,  control or remove  plant pests, diseases,  pest infestations,  infections or  conditions; and  • facilitate the  movement of plants  into and out of  Queensland.	<ul> <li>The Act provides powers for the State to</li> <li>declare pests,</li> <li>declare a crop plant district or pest quarantine area to control the introduction and movement of plants, soil and other things, and</li> <li>appoint inspectors with powers necessary to contain or to control pests.</li> </ul>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).	No fees	With commencement of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> (prior to 1 July 2016), the <i>Plant Protection Act 1989</i> will be repealed.

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 and Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 Purpose: Identify areas of Queensland that are of regional interest; manage the impact of resource activities and other regulated activities on areas of regional interest; and manage the coexistence between regulated activities with other activities including highly productive agricultural activities.	The Act supports the coexistence of resource activities and agriculture activities within a Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) and a Strategic Cropping Area (SCA).  Where a resource activity seeks to operate on land used for a priority agricultural land use in a PAA or in a SCA, the expected impacts of the resource activity must be assessed through a regional interest development approval.  Land owners of properties that are the subject of an application, if located within a PAA or SCA, will also get a say before the application is made, promoting negotiated agreements with land owners and proponents of resource activities. It is a requirement of any application in these areas of regional interests for an application to demonstrate how they have consulted with the land owner. If there is a voluntary agreement with the land owner, the Act provides exemptions for certain activities.	Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP)	Application fees apply to resource companies.	The Regional Planning Interests Act integrates the Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 policy framework.  PAAs are identified in Regional Plans.  SCA are identified on the SCL trigger map.  Priority agricultural land uses are defined in Regional Plans, and may include certain types of dryland agriculture and plantations, irrigated agriculture and plantations, and intensive horticulture.  Please also .refer to the QFF publication Resource Activities on Agricultural Land for more information.
State	Soil Conservation Act 1986 and Soil Conservation Regulation 1998 Purpose: Facilitate the implementation of soil conservation measures by landholders for the mitigation of soil erosion.	The Act provides for the preparation and approval of soil conservation plans that specify the location and design of run-off control structures, particularly involving cross-boundary water flow. Properties covered by an approved soil conservation plan must comply with the plan specifications.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)	No fees	There are legacy plans dating from the time when the preparation of approved soil conservation plans attracted a State Government subsidy. The approved plans continue to be a legal obligation on landholders.
State	State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2010 and State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Regulation 2009. Purpose: To provide for State planning and development through a coordinated system of public works organisation, for environmental coordination.	State development areas (SDAs) are areas of land established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Queensland.  The Coordinator-General is responsible for the planning, establishment and ongoing management of state development areas.  In a state development area, the Coordinator-General:  controls land-use activities  implements the development scheme  assesses and approves all development, or material change of use, applications  has compulsory land acquisition powers.  Any proposed change of land use within an SDA requires a development, or material change of use, application.  The Coordinator-General assesses and decides all material change of use applications in an SDA.	Coordinator-General within the Department of State Development (DSD)	Material Change of Use applications are subject to fees. For more information, read the Guideline for material change of use application fees.	The Act provides for the appointment of a Coordinator-General as a corporation sole, representing the Crown.  Current SDAs that include rural areas are at:  Abbot Point  Bromelton  Callide Infrastructure Corridor  Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor  Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor  Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor  Townsville

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Stock Act 1915	The movement of all livestock must be recorded and	Department of	There are no fees for	Further information on
	Stock Regulation 1988	reported.	Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)	moving stock but there are fees for inspectors to	the transport and selling livestock is available on
	Stock Identification Regulation 2005	Reports of movements must contain standard information such as the date of movement, the property identification codes of the starting and ending place of the movement, the number of animals	(DAL)	inspect diseased stock and other purposes	the DAFF website.  With commencement of
	Purpose:	and the National Vendor Declaration (NVD)/waybill serial number.		set out in the Stock	the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>
	To regulate the movement of livestock in order to assist in the control of disease.	The waybill provides the minimal compulsory movement document that must accompany travelling stock, but for commercial reasons and to meet domestic and export food safety requirements, combined NVD/waybills are generally used when stock are moved to saleyards or to slaughter.		Regulation 1988 Sch 7.	(prior to 1 July 2016), the <i>Stock Act 1915</i> will be repealed.
State	Sustainable Planning	General requirements for agriculture	Department of	Development	Does not generally apply
	Act 2009	• Existing agricultural uses are unaffected.	Infrastructure, Local Government and	application fees	to extensive grazing and cropping activities, however there are exceptions. Check local planning schemes.
	Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009	<ul> <li>Management practices for conducting an agricultural use, including weed and pest control, fire, conservation of natural</li> </ul>	Planning (DILGP)		
	Purpose:	<ul> <li>areas and forest practices, are unaffected.</li> <li>Cropping and animal husbandry are usually self-assessable</li> </ul>	Local Councils		
	To integrate planning and development assessment so that development and its effects are managed in a way that is ecologically	development in a Rural Zone/Precinct. Therefore, while approval from Council will not be required to establish these uses, there will usually be criteria in the planning scheme to regulate their conduct - such as providing for setbacks from boundaries, maximum heights for any buildings and structures.			A new State Planning Policy took effect in December 2013 and was revised in July 2014, replacing all previous State Planning Policies.
	sustainable.	<ul> <li>In any other zone or precinct, such as a Rural Residential, Residential or Commercial Zone/Precinct, new agricultural activities will not be exempt and will almost always require approval.</li> </ul>			A new Planning Bill and Regulation are being prepared.
		<ul> <li>Some Local Government planning schemes require planning approval for intensive farming in sensitive areas, for forestry for wood production (timber plantations) and for farm- diversification activities such as tourism accommodation or camping.</li> </ul>			

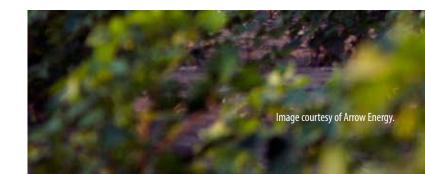


Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/comments
State	Vegetation Management Act 1999 & Vegetation Management Regulation 2012	Clearing vegetation Unless exempt, all clearing must be for a relevant purpose under s22A of the Vegetation Management Act. An application is required to clear vegetation for these purposes.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)  Department of Natural Resources and Mines (clearing application are set out in the Vegetation are set out	Fees for vegetation clearing application are set out in the Vegetation Management Regulation	The full range of exempt activities are set out in the list of clearing vegetation exemptions.
	Purpose:  To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that:  conserves remnant vegetation  conserves vegetation in declared areas  does not cause land degradation  prevents the loss of biodiversity  maintains ecological processes  manages the environmental effects of clearing  reduces greenhouse gas emissions and  allows sustainable land use	to clear vegetation for these purposes.  Exemptions apply to a range of clearing activities where approval is not required. These include:  category X land  fences roads and tracks on land defined as least concern regional ecosystem <10m  built infrastructure on land defined as least concern regional ecosystem <2 h  fire breaks, fuel load reduction  risk reduction  community infrastructure  approved development.  Some other activities are covered by self-assessable codes. These include fodder harvesting, weed control, managing a native forest practice, clearing for certain environmental works and clearing thickened vegetation in certain regions. No permit is required but landholders must notify the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) of their intention to clear.  If the property is covered by an existing Area Management Plan (AMP), clearing is allowed under the AMP as long as the DNRM is notified before starting to clear and the requirements of the AMP are followed.  Applications are assessed against a vegetation code.  Clearing may be permitted for high-value agriculture and for environmental purposes.  Clearing essential habitat  To maintain the current extent of essential habitat for protected wildlife, clearing is not permitted in an area shown as essential habitat on the essential habitat map. (This applies if three habitat criteria are present.)  Certainty for property vegetation (PMAV) are property-scale maps certified by the DNRM. They show the location, boundary and categories of vegetation.  Landholders can apply for a PMAV from DNRM.  Native timber harvesting  Landholders on freehold land can undertake harvesting of native timber under a native forest practice in remnant or Category B vegetation in accordance with the Managing a Native Forest Practice — a self assessable vegetation clearing code. A permit is not required but landholders must notify DNRM.		Management Regulation 2012 Sch 7.	vegetation exemptions.  Activities subject to self assessable codes are listed on the Queensland Government website.  Guidelines and further information is available on the vegetation management website (DNRM).  Module 8 of the State Development Assessment Provisions sets out the assessment criteria for vegetation clearing applications.



Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Water Act 2000 & Water Regulation 2002 Purpose: To provide for the responsible and productive management of water resources and quarry material to optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes; and the management of impacts on underground water.	Taking or interfering with water In areas covered by a Water Resource Plan and an associated Resource Operations Plan, water entitlements (water licences and interim water allocations) that previously were attached to land are converted to water allocations. A water allocation is an authority to take water, and an entitlement to a share of the available water resource in a catchment. A water allocation can be bought and sold independently in a similar way to land.  In areas not covered by a Water Resource Plan, a water licence for taking or interfering with water in a watercourse, lake or spring is required for purposes such as:  stock or domestic use  irrigation  industrial use  the storage of water behind a weir  the storage of water in excavations that are within or connected to a watercourse.  In some areas of Queensland, a water licence may be needed to take or interfere with overland flow water. These areas are identified in moratorium notices and water resource plans.  A water licence is required to take or interfere with artesian water anywhere in Queensland.  Generally, a water licence is needed to take or interfere with subartesian water for purposes other than stock and domestic in: declared subartesian areas under the Water Regulation 2002 ergoundwater management areas under the Water Regulation 2002 or a water resource plan  subartesian management areas under the Water Regulation 2002 or a water resource plan  works related to taking or interfering with water  You may require an authorisation for an activity or works in a water area.  Works constructed to take or interfere with water from watercourses, lakes, springs, aquifers or overland flow could include pumping equipment, diversion channels, weirs, barrages, dams or bores.  These works may be considered assessable, self-assessable or exempt development under the Sustainable Planning Act framework.  All assessable works require development approval. Self-assessable or exempt development under the Sustainable Planning Act framework.  All assessab	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)	Fees are charged for:	Information is available on development assessment and approval for works under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

Level	Instrument	Requirements (including forms, plans, reporting requirements)	Administering body	Fees, costs, compliance	Further information/ comments
State	Water Act 2000 Water Regulation 2002 (cont.)	Riverine quarry material Riverine quarry material such as sand, gravel, rocks and soil can be extracted from the non-tidal reaches of streams (called watercourses) and freshwater natural lakes under a quarry material allocation.			
		Persons may intend to remove material from a watercourse or lake for stream management purposes, including desilting, and bed and bank protection. This material is not considered quarry material unless it is then sold or used for any productive purpose, such as for manufacturing, building or fill.			
		To remove waste material from a watercourse, lake or spring, a riverine protection permit may be required.			
		Water bore drilling Water bores in Queensland deeper than 6m (including monitoring bores) must be constructed by, or under the supervision of, a licensed water bore driller. Waterbore drillers must have the correct licence endorsements for:  drilling, deepening, enlarging or casing a water bore removing, replacing, altering, or repairing the casing, lining or screen of a water bore			
		decommissioning a water bore.  Construction of levees  The Water Act 2000 defines what a levee is and provides that the construction of a new levee or the modification of an existing levee is an 'assessable development' under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. This means that any person planning to construct or modify a levee must give consideration to the potential effects of their levee on the movement of floodwater, and how this could affect other people and properties.			
Common-wealth	Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 & Regulation 2000  Purpose:  Protect the environment, especially matters of national significance; promote ecological sustainability and conservation of biodiversity	The Act defines nine matters of national environmental significance:  world heritage properties  national heritage places  wetlands of international importance  listed threatened species and ecological communities  migratory species protected under international agreements  Commonwealth marine areas  the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park  nuclear actions (including uranium mines)  a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development	Department of the Environment (C'wealth)	Application fees	The Commonwealth Government has accredited State processes under the State Development and Public Works and Organisation Act 1994
		an area of national environmental significance.  Protected species and ecological communities include brigalow regrowth more than 15 years old, box-gum grassy woodlands in southern Queensland, and natural grasslands in southern Queensland, the Central Highlands and northern Fitzroy Basin.			



#### Appendix 1 - Other applicable Queensland legislation

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994

Biosecurity Act 2014\*

Biodiscovery Act 2004

Biological Control Act 1987

Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001

Environmental Offsets Act 2014

Gene Technology Act 2001

Health Act 1937

Marine Parks Act 2004

Native Title Act 1993

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

Wet Tropics Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993

Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

\* The Biosecurity Act 2014 was passed in Parliament on 6 March 2014 and will come into effect by 1 July 2016

The Act will provide the flexibility to respond in a timely and effective way to emergency and ongoing animal and plant pests and diseases. It will also manage risks of biological, chemical and physical contaminants associated with carriers such as livestock, plants, machinery, animal feed and fertilisers.

With the commencement of the Act the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, the Apiaries Act 1982, the Diseases in Timber Act 1975, the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981, the Plant Protection Act 1989 and the Stock Act 1915 will be repealed.

The Act will also amend the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988*, the *Fisheries Act 1994* and the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

For more information, go to http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity/about-biosecurity/Biosecurity-Act-2014.

#### Acknowledgements

QFF acknowledges the information and assistance provided by individuals and organisations in completing this guide. The guide was compiled by Mick Capelin based on contributions from Matthew Lee-Manwar, Russel Scholl. Salvo Vitelli, Margo Richardo, Michael Lancaster, Patrick Bell, Jim Burgess and John Kelly, Ben Westlake and Andrew Thwaites (DAF).







#### PRODUCED BY

The Rural Planning Project Queensland Farmers' Federation PO Box 12009 Brisbane Qld 4003

#### WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisherie