



# QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

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13 April 2017

Mr David Putland  
A/Manager - Adaptation  
Climate Change Policy  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection  
400 George St  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: [david.putland@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:david.putland@ehp.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Putland

## Re: Draft Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS)

Thank you for your email on 3 April 2017 and for the opportunity to comment on the draft Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS).

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the united voice of our state's intensive agriculture industries. We are a federation that represents the interests of 15 of Queensland's peak rural industry organisations, which in turn collectively represent more than 13,000 primary producers across the state.

QFF and its member organisations recognise the importance of climate adaptation to our sector. We will continue to work co-operatively with the Queensland Government to support our producers, and ensure that Queensland consumers continue to have access to high quality food, fibre and foliage as the climate changes.

As an overarching document, the draft Q-CAS provides an effective framework to address climate adaptation in Queensland. The program logic is generally sound and the overall format of the strategy is appropriate for a strategic high level document. QFF provides the following feedback on this draft document.

Firstly, there needs to be a much clearer mechanism for addressing synergies and potential contradictions both between the four pathways and between the sector plans themselves. Each of the sector plans will be developed in isolation and there needs to be a clearly identified process for ensuring that the plans are complementary and highlight linkages across sectors. We contend that there is a role for the state government in driving that process, which should be recognised overtly in the State Government Pathway. We acknowledge that there will be trade-offs but these trade-offs need to be made consciously. A hypothetical example could be that there may be recommendations in the built environment sector plan to change the urban footprint in response to sea level rise thus encroaching on existing agricultural land. Whilst this would manage the issue of housing, it would amplify the impacts of

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climate change on the agriculture sector as temperature increases are already reducing the area suitable for some commodities, leading to lack of suitable land for some crops.

Secondly, we recommend the development of a communication document that sits between this strategy and the pathways. Q-CAS partners understand the linkages between the documents and will drill down into the individual pathways and sector plans, but for members of the general community, there is a significant leap between this strategy and those documents. A document that summarises the key objectives and deliverables from the different pathways and plans would be useful and would assist in ensuring integration and complementarity.

Relatedly, QFF seeks clarification on the 'Case Study: Agriculture Sector Plan' (page 24). The Agriculture Sector Plan is yet to be delivered to the department. As such, QFF assumes that the current information under the 'Case Study: Agriculture Sector Plan' is a place holder only that will be updated with actual sector plan information once completed. Please advise if not and QFF will provide the wording to this case study section to ensure it aligns with the industry driven sector adaptation plan.

Finally, throughout the document there are unattributed quotes. While understanding the idea behind these quotes, the fact that they are unattributed reduces the credibility of the statements. We also request that the agricultural quote 'if agriculture can't adapt, food production will decline' be removed. QFF considers this is a negative quote that adds no value to the overall purpose of the document, and is in direct contrast to the proactive activities and significant investment our sector has made over many years towards adapting to a changing climate.

Yours sincerely

Travis Tobin  
Chief Executive Officer