



# QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

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## Submission

18 June 2018

Mr Barry Broe  
Coordinator-General  
c/- The EIS Project manager – Inland Rail – B2G project  
Coordinated Project Delivery  
Office of the Coordinator-General  
PO Box 15517  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Via email: [inlandrailb2g@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au](mailto:inlandrailb2g@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Broe

### **Re: Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Inland Rail NSW/QLD Border to Gowrie Project**

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) is the united voice of intensive agriculture in Queensland. It is a federation that represents the interests of peak state and national agriculture industry organisations, which in turn collectively represent more than 13,000 primary producers across the state. QFF engages in a broad range of economic, social, environmental and regional issues of strategic importance to the productivity, sustainability and growth of the agricultural sector. QFF's mission is to secure a strong and sustainable future for Queensland farmers by representing the common interests of our member organisations:

- CANEGROWERS
- Cotton Australia
- Growcom
- Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ)
- Queensland Chicken Growers Association (QCGA)
- Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation (QDO)
- Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA)
- Flower Association
- Pork Queensland Inc.
- Queensland United Egg Producers (QUEP)
- Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group (BRIG)
- Burdekin River Irrigation Area Irrigators Ltd (BRIA)
- Central Downs Irrigators Ltd (CDIL)
- Pioneer Valley Water Cooperative Ltd (PV Water)
- Queensland Chicken Meat Council (QCMC).

*The united voice of intensive agriculture*



## **Background**

QFF welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Inland Rail NSW/Queensland Border to Gowrie (B2G) project. QFF provides this submission without prejudice to any additional submission provided by our members or individual farmers.

QFF understand that the key components of the B2G project include:

- 146km of new dual gauge freight railway line and 78km of upgraded railway line, a total of 224km, capable of carrying 1,800m long trains transporting double-stacked containers
- construction of rail infrastructure, culverts, bridges, viaducts and crossing loops
- connection to the existing West Moreton System and Interstate railway lines
- ancillary works including road and public utility crossings and realignments
- a land corridor with an average width of 40m to accommodate future upgrades, including a possible requirement to accommodate trains up to 3,600m long.

QFF acknowledges the acceptance by the Coordinator-General's Office of the feedback provided in our previous submissions (see <https://www.qff.org.au/advocacy/submissions/>):

- Submission to the Department of State Development – Draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement. Inland Rail – Gowrie to Helidon Project (May 2017)
- Submission to the Department of State Development – Draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement. Inland Rail – Helidon to Calvert Project (May 2017)

## **B2G Project Draft ToR**

QFF particularly welcomes the addition of new sections into the B2G Project Draft ToR including:

- Section 11.73 (e)
- Section 11.74
- Section 11.82
- Section 11.91.

QFF notes that these sections were not included in the Draft ToRs for Gowrie to Helidon or the Helidon to Calvert Inland Rail Project and acknowledges the work of the Coordinator-General's office.

QFF requests the following addition to the Biosecurity Objectives text box on page 25 to include:

(c) All stakeholders meet their 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)*.

Noting that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are:

- under their control **and**
- that they know about or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event' and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

These points are particularly important as the biosecurity framework does not currently fully capture the impact of all biosecurity risk creators. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that those (non-agricultural) industries that have previously not considering biosecurity to be a significant issue for them are informed of their responsibilities and accountable for their actions.



QFF reiterates the importance of landowner consultation, particularly with regards the identification of, and impact to current (present) agricultural crops/products to obtain accurate representation of the land/cropping use, seasonality impacts, water allocation, cropping rotation and a range of other factors. A desk-top methodology will not accurately identify these characteristics.

It is therefore imperative that the proponents undertake meaningful consultation with agricultural landowners impacted by the construction, operation and maintenance of the Inland Rail project to determine all associated impacts to agricultural products and economic resources.

Yours sincerely

Travis Tobin  
Chief Executive Officer