



QUEENSLAND  
FARMERS'  
FEDERATION



## Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025 **September 2025**

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**Prepared for**  
Primary Industries and  
Resources Committee

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This submission is provided to:

**Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

Parliament House, George Street Brisbane, Qld, 4000

Submitted via upload and email: [PIRC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:PIRC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### Our members

- Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers
- Cotton Australia
- Canegrowers
- Greenlife Industry QLD
- eastAUSmilk
- Australian Cane Farmers Association
- Queensland United Egg Producers
- Turf Queensland
- Pork Queensland
- Australian Chicken Meat Federation
- Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group
- Burdekin River Irrigation Area
- Central Downs Irrigators Ltd
- Fairburn Irrigation Network
- Mallowa Irrigation
- Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Ltd
- Theodore Water Pty Ltd
- Eton Irrigation
- Lockyer Valley Water Users

# 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.

## Submission

QFF welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the **Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025**.

We provide this submission without prejudice to any additional submission from our members or individual farmers.

## Introduction

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee on the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

QFF played a leading role in securing the prohibition of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), a critical outcome that safeguarded one of Queensland's most valuable and irreplaceable resources for agriculture and regional communities.

QFF therefore strongly supports the Bill's primary objective to repurpose wells within the former EPQ10 area for agricultural use, particularly as stock and domestic bores. This reform represents a practical and constructive solution to transform legacy infrastructure into a long-term asset for landholders, and QFF strongly advocates its passage.

## QFF position

While QFF is supportive of the Bill's provisions regarding the EPQ10 wells, our support is coupled with a firm call for the Committee to expand its scope and address all other legacy greenhouse gas (GHG) exploration wells across Queensland. We believe that a fragmented, well-by-well approach is a missed opportunity to create a consistent, state-wide policy that provides protections for all landholders.

The Bill effectively addresses the wells within the former EPQ10 area, which includes six wells, including one injection well and multiple monitoring wells. However, it fails to provide a clear plan for the many other GHG exploration wells drilled under previous investigations across the state, including those south of Emerald and in the Surat and Denison regions.

These wells remain within the agricultural landscape, and their long-term management is unclear. Without a consistent and comprehensive policy, there is a risk that landholders with

these other legacy wells will be left with abandoned infrastructure and without the opportunity to benefit from repurposing this valuable resource.

We urge the Committee to investigate the status of all GHG exploration wells outside the Surat EPQ10 area. A consistent policy approach is necessary to ensure all legacy GHG wells are dealt with in a transparent and equitable manner.

Additionally, we note that the sealing of GHG exploration wells has the potential to deliver measurable emissions reduction outcomes. While supportive of this being pursued, we emphasise that any verified abatement achieved through well-sealing activities should be attributed directly to the affected landholder's own carbon profile.

QFF therefore provides the following recommendations to the Legislative Committee for their consideration:

### **1. Support for EPQ10 conversion**

QFF fully supports the provisions in the Bill that allow the six wells within the former EPQ10 area to be converted and handed over to landholders. This conversion must be conducted at no cost to the landholder, as it is a remediation of an existing liability on their property. This solution provides a tangible and long-term benefit for rural communities by providing a valuable water resource for stock and domestic use as well as ecological value. It is critical that the conversion process is subject to proper safeguards for the landowner, including a clear transfer of liability and ownership, and that appropriate water licensing is secured to ensure the long-term viability and legality of the bore.

### **2. Clarity and transparency**

QFF calls for clear and transparent timelines and processes around the conversion of wells to be adequately stipulated within the Bill itself. This is critical for landholders who are currently in a state of uncertainty regarding the future of infrastructure on their properties. All decision-making must be centred on landholder consent, ensuring that the landowner has the final say on whether a well is converted or plugged and abandoned. The process should not be contingent on the proponent's timeline or discretion but should provide a structured, predictable pathway that protects landholders' rights and interests.

### **3. Expanding scope**

QFF urges the Committee to press for a consistent and transparent policy approach to ensure that all legacy GHG wells across Queensland are addressed, not just those in the former EPQ10 area. A state-wide framework would provide certainty for all landholders and maximise the potential benefits to regional communities. There are numerous other legacy wells across Queensland, and their potential for conversion should be assessed. QFF therefore calls on the Committee to actively investigate other exploration wells drilled under past GHG projects that are located outside the Surat EPQ10 area.

## Conclusion

The *Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025* represents a positive step in addressing legacy wells. QFF is supportive of its intent to provide a beneficial outcome and appropriate protections for landholders in the EPQ10 area. However, it is imperative that this Bill is viewed as a starting point, not the conclusion, to a state-wide strategy. A comprehensive and consistent policy on the management and potential repurposing of all legacy GHG wells is essential for the long-term benefit of Queensland's agricultural sector and regional communities.

We look forward to working with the Committee to achieve these outcomes.

Yours sincerely

Jo Sheppard  
Chief Executive Officer





**This submission is provided by the Queensland Farmers' Federation**

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