

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Management Grants) Amendment Regulation 2017

Explanatory notes for SL 2017 No. 37

made under the

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994

General Outline

Short title

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Management Grants) Amendment Regulation 2017

Authorising law

Sections 10, 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act)

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

In the 2016/17 State Budget the Queensland Government announced a Rural Assistance Package which is a suite of measures announced to support primary producers and regional Queensland impacted by high levels of debt and drought.

One of the measures announced as part of the Rural Assistance Package is a grants program over three years for farm financial management and succession planning (Farm Management Grants).

QRAA will administer the Farm Management Grants that will be available to primary producers or relatives of primary producers for professional advisory services related to eligible activities.

Eligible activities include professional advice such as accounting, financial or legal advice made in the process of acquiring an interest in a primary production enterprise. For example, professional advice obtained by the offspring of the current owner of the primary production enterprise in order to acquire the primary production enterprise from their parents.

The scheme also allows the grants to be extended to professional advice obtained in order to manage a primary production enterprise with the specific types of management

activities to be defined by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and notified on the QRAA website.

That is to say, the scheme will be initially only open for professional advice related to succession related activities by the primary producer and/or his/her relatives and may at a later stage be opened up to other management activities that may be defined by the Minister and published on the QRAA website.

Assistance under the scheme consists of a rebate of half the amount paid by the applicant for eligible professional advice received by an applicant to a maximum of \$2500 per financial year.

Assistance is subject to QRAA having available assistance funds such that if expenditure on grants exceeds the available funds QRAA will decline the application.

Achievement of policy objectives

The subordinate legislation will achieve its objectives by allowing QRAA to administer the Farm Management Grants Scheme on behalf of the Queensland Government.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Act was established to allow QRAA to administer financial assistance schemes of both the Queensland and Federal Governments that assist primary producers, small business and other sectors during periods of temporary difficulty, or to otherwise benefit the Queensland economy. This subordinate legislation is consistent with the main policy objectives of the Act in that it provides financial assistance to primary producers in Queensland.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

This subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of any other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

QRAA has been funded by the Queensland Government for the administration of this grants scheme.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The subordinate legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries consulted with industry groups and QRAA as to the structure of the grants program. This consultation influenced the structure of the program and the activities that will become available for rebate under the program.

In accordance with the *Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation* effective August 2016 this regulatory amendment has been self-assessed as being excluded from requiring consideration by the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) with regard to regulatory impact as it is of a machinery nature and for the internal management of the public sector.

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