

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021

Human Rights Certificate

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 41 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, provide this human rights certificate with respect to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021* (Amendment Regulation) made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the Amendment Regulation, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the Subordinate Legislation

The main objective of the Amendment Regulation is to implement the Government's election commitment to establish a rebate scheme to enable horticulture irrigators to receive a 35 per cent reduction on the eligible charges on their Sunwater and Seqwater water bills.

The Amendment Regulation does this by establishing the Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme in schedule 22 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* (RRA Regulation) as an approved assistance scheme under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (RRA Act). This enables the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) to administer the scheme, as under section 10 of the RRA Act, QRIDA can only provide financial assistance under an approved assistance scheme prescribed by regulation.

The Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme (the Rebate Scheme) assists eligible horticulture irrigators with a rebate of 35 per cent for charges from Sunwater and Seqwater for water used to grow horticulture crops such as fruit, vegetables, nuts and turf.

The Farm Management Grants Scheme (the Grants Scheme) is already established in schedule 30 of the RRA Regulation as an approved assistance scheme under the RRA Act. The Amendment Regulation amends schedule 30 so that, subject to further administrative processes, the Grants Scheme can be used to provide a rebate on the professional costs incurred by producers in the development of an individual farm business resilience plan. The rebates are part of Queensland drought policy reform and will be a component of Queensland's participation in the Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP) of the Future Drought Fund of the Australian Government. The purpose of the FBRP is to improve drought resilience of primary producers through risk management and planning culminating in the producer developing (with professional support) an individual farm business resilience plan for the property (the activity that is proposed to get the rebate under the scheme).

Human rights relevant to the subordinate legislation (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The *Human Rights Act 2019* has been considered with regard to the Amendment Regulation and it has been determined that no human rights are limited. This is because the Rebate Scheme and the amendments to the Grants Scheme protect human rights of the individuals and do not limit their rights.

Conclusion

I consider that the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not raise a human rights issue.

MARK FURNER MP
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES
AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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