

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) 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 MP, 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 (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021* made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021* (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 Amendment Regulation is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The authorising law for the regulation is sections 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The objective of the Amendment Regulation is to enable the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) to provide increased assistance to eligible business under the COVID-19 Business Supports Grants Scheme (August 2021) (the Scheme), prescribed in schedule 37 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*.

The Scheme initially provided grants of \$5,000 (excluding GST) to eligible employing Queensland businesses and non-profit organisations most significantly impacted by 'lock down' restrictions imposed in August 2021 to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The Amendment Regulation amended the Scheme to enable QRIDA to provide the following payments to eligible businesses and non-profit organisations:

- \$10,000 to small businesses with a payroll of less than \$1.3 million - an increase of \$5,000 compared to the existing Scheme;
- \$15,000 to medium sized businesses with payroll between \$1.3 million and \$10 million (inclusive) - an increase of \$10,000 compared to the existing Scheme;
- \$30,000 to large sized tourism and hospitality businesses with payroll of greater than \$10 million - an increase of \$25,000 compared to the existing Scheme.

Human Rights Issues

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

The Amendment Regulation has been considered with regards to the *Human Rights Act 2019* and it has been determined that no human rights are engaged by the Amendment Regulation.

Conclusion

I consider that the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

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

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