

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme) 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, the Honourable 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 Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme) 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 Amendment Regulation is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The authorising law for the Amendment Regulation is sections 3, 10, 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The Amendment Regulation amends the Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme (the scheme) which is prescribed in schedule 36 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*.

The Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme is a targeted initiative to attract jobseekers in Australia to take a job in the Queensland tourism industry. The objective is to stimulate regional economies and assist Queensland tourism businesses to rebuild in a COVID-Safe environment by offering incentives to jobseekers to take a job in the Queensland regional tourism industry.

COVID-19 restrictions in New South Wales and Victoria, resulting in lockdowns and border closures, have impacted on Queensland's visitor economy resulting in tourism businesses reducing staff hours and standing down staff.

In this context, the Amendment Regulation expands the opportunities for job seekers to be eligible for payments under the scheme by working in tourism businesses which will provide an incentive for them to stay working in the Queensland tourism industry rather than returning interstate or looking for work in alternative industries.

Where tourism businesses have ceased trading or where workers' employment in the tourism industry has been reduced to less than the required amount of 20 hours per week due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Amendment Regulation makes amendments to also include another eight local government areas (LGA) in regional Queensland which have not been as severely impacted by COVID restrictions and where the jobs market remains stronger for tourism

workers. These amendments will enable workers who obtain employment to work their required number of hours with up to a maximum of two employers in these eight additional LGAs.

Human Rights Issues

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

The Amendment Regulation does not engage any of the twenty-three human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Conclusion

I consider that the Amendment Regulation is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

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

© The State of Queensland 2021