

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024

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, make this human rights certificate with respect to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024* (the 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 *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024* is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

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

All schemes of financial assistance administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) are required to be set out in regulation.

This subordinate legislation introduces the Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) which is a new scheme of financial assistance to be administered by QRIDA to improve the biosecurity and traceability within the State's goat and sheep industry through providing rebates on the purchase by eligible applicants of approved devices (a tag or other identifying device used to distinguish the animal) and electronic readers (to scan these approved devices) for use in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

The NLIS is Australia's system for the identification and traceability of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. This traceability assists with managing biosecurity and food safety. Under NLIS, all livestock are identified by a visual or electronic ear tag/device, all physical locations are identified by means of a Property Identification Code (PIC) and all livestock location and movement data is recorded on a central database.

The following applicants will be eligible for assistance under the Scheme:

- Primary Producers (30 or more sheep and/or goats in Queensland) and one or more PIC.
- Queensland livestock agents that hold an NLIS account as agent.

Producers (with 30 or more sheep and/or goats) can obtain a rebate of up to 50 per cent of costs for eligible items (approved devices per Schedule 4 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* such as ear tags and eID readers (fixed panel or handheld)) that can be used to scan an approved device) capped at \$1600 per PIC.

Livestock agents can receive a rebate of up to 50 per cent of costs for eligible items (EID readers (fixed panel or handheld)) capped at \$1600. The rebate only applies to the reader itself not ancillary expenses related to the reader (ie software, batteries, cables etc).

The Scheme will open on the day stated on QRIDA's website for opening and will close on 30 June 2025 with the possibility of a six-month extension if the Minister is satisfied that eligible applicants need more time to apply for the assistance. Eligibility for assistance is subject to QRIDA having sufficient assistance funds to pay for the assistance.

Human Rights Issues

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

The potential impact of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024* on the human rights in sections 15 to 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* was considered and no potential impact was identified.

Conclusion

I consider that the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Sheep and Goats Electronic Identification Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024* is compatible with the Human Rights Act because it does not limit any of the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Mark Furner MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities