

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme and Another Matter) 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 (Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme and Another Matter) Amendment Regulation 2024* (the Amendment Regulation) made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the RRA).

In my opinion, the Amendment Regulation, 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 RRA.

The authorising law for the Amendment Regulation is section 44 of the RRA.

All schemes of financial assistance administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) are required to be set out in regulation. This regulatory amendment establishes two new schemes of financial assistance:

- North Queensland Restocking and On-farm Infrastructure Grants, Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, 20 December 2022–30 April 2023 (NQ Restocking Grants) an Australian Government Scheme which will provide grants to primary producers that suffered damage from the monsoonal flooding event of early 2023 for restocking and on-farm infrastructure repairs; and
- Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme (RDRP Scheme) which will provide grants to improve drought resilience at the regional level.

NQ Restocking Grants

The NQ Restocking Grants are an Australian Government funded program that provide grants of up to \$150,000 matched by the primary producer for restocking lost livestock or restoring or replacing lost or damaged on-farm infrastructure, lost or damaged as a result of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Disaster Event: Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, 20 December 2022–30 April 2023 (a monsoonal flooding event that impacted far northern Queensland, principally the northern Gulf region). The guidelines for this program will be available on the QRIDA website. The Scheme will be open until 30 June 2025 or until the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

RDRP Scheme

The Future Drought Fund (FDF) provides long term funding for a suite of programs to improve Australia's drought resilience. One of the programs of the FDF is the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program which provides funding to develop plans at the regional level which will improve regional drought resilience. These plans are developed and owned by local government, consortia of local governments and potentially natural resource management organisations and Regional Development Authorities. These plans includes activities that the parties to the plan have identified that will improve drought resilience.

The RDRP Scheme, subject to this regulatory amendment, is a sub-program of the RDRP. The RDRP Scheme provides grants eligible entities (signatories to RDRP plans, eg local government, regional organisations of councils, natural resource management organisations or Regional Development Authorities) to assist them to complete a draft plan or implement activities identified in their completed RDRP plan that will improve the drought resilience of the region.

The RDRP Scheme has two components (not more than \$450,000 total per plan), an activity grant and a remuneration grant:

- the activity grant (section 6 and 13 of Schedule 61 of the Amendment Regulation) is up to \$300,000 (excluding GST) for the implementation of eligible activities identified in the RDRP Plan; and
- the remuneration grant (Section 10 and 14 of Schedule 61 of the Amendment Regulation) is up to \$150,000 (excluding GST) for wages and salaries necessary to either a) make amendments to a draft plan as required by the Australian Government Minister for Drought before the plan is approved as a RDRP Plan (a draft plan per Section 5) or b) assist the applicant identify or implement measures identified in an approved plan.

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 Amendment Regulation 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 Amendment Regulation 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