

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further 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 (Further 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 (Further 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 Amendment Regulation is sections 3, 10, 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The Amendment Regulation amends the COVID-19 Business Supports Grants Scheme (August 2021) (the Scheme) which is prescribed in schedule 37 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*.

The objective of the Amendment Regulation is to enable the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) to provide assistance to an expanded cohort of eligible business and non-profit organisations under the Scheme.

The Scheme initially provided grants to eligible employing Queensland businesses and non-profit organisations significantly impacted by 'lock down' restrictions imposed in August 2021 to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The Amendment Regulation amends the Scheme to expand the eligibility to Queensland businesses and non-profit organisations that were trading within a 'border area' on 31 July 2021 and have been impacted by the imposition of restrictions on the reasons for which a person may enter Queensland from an area in the border zone in New South Wales while the area is a declared COVID-19 hotspot under Border Restrictions Direction (No. 35) or any subsequent direction. The border area is defined by reference to the map 'COVID-19 Business Support

Grants – Border areas mapping’ dated 13 September 2021, and is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Area level 2 of the Gold Coast known as Coolangatta, Currumbin – Tugun, and Currumbin Waters and the ABS defined border suburbs of Wallangarra, Goondiwindi and Mungindi (Queensland).

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 (Further 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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