

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022

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 (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022* made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022* 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 (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022* 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.

The legislation is to introduce new schemes of financial assistance to be administered by QRIDA to support primary producers become better prepared for drought and support primary producers during drought. It is proposed to establish by regulation the following drought and drought preparedness assistance schemes for primary producers:

- New Schedule 40 Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan Scheme: a concessional loan of up to \$250,000 to either support projects or activities undertaken by the producer to improve his or her drought preparedness (the purchase and installation of new permanent capital infrastructure such as water infrastructure or fodder storages), readiness or activities that will assist the producer recover from a drought such as replanting and restocking.
- Replacing existing Schedule 5 with the Emergency Drought Assistance Loan Scheme: providing an interest free loan of up to \$50,000 for drought impacted producers to assist with carry-on finance that can be used to pay for expenses such as wages, creditors, rent and rates and goods, including fuel, for carrying on the business.

- Replacing existing Schedule 4 with the Drought Carry-on Finance Loan Scheme: a concessional loan of up to \$250,000 to support a primary producer in managing the ongoing carry-on farm expenses during a drought. The Scheme will assist producers with carry-on finance that can be used to pay for expenses such as wages, creditors, rent and rates and goods, including fuel, for carrying on the business. It is intended that this Scheme will be used where the assistance under the Emergency Drought Assistance Loan Scheme is insufficient to assist the primary producer manage the drought and the maximum of \$250,000 is inclusive of the \$50,000 that might have been received under the Emergency Drought Assistance Loan Scheme.

It will also make a minor amendment to the eligibility criteria for the recently introduced Schedule 39 Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme: a program which will provide a 25 per cent rebate on new capital infrastructure identified in the applicant's resilience plan that is undertaken to improve the drought preparedness of his or her primary production enterprise, for example, the purchase and installation of new water infrastructure or fodder storages.

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 (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022* 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 (Drought-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022* 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