

Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2025

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, Dale Last MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, make this human rights certificate with respect to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2025*.

In my opinion, the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2025* 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 Amendment Regulation 2025* is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

The authorising law for the regulation is section 44 of the Act, which allows the Governor in Council to make regulations under the Act. The Act is the governing law for the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), which is established to administer schemes of financial assistance of the Queensland and Australian Governments.

The Act requires that all schemes of financial assistance administered by QRIDA be set out in regulation. Accordingly, new schemes and amendments to existing QRIDA schemes requires regulatory amendment. This regulatory amendment makes the following principal changes to existing schemes:

1. Amends the eligible activities in the Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme (Schedule 39) and the Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan Scheme (Schedule 40) to include infrastructure upgrades (currently the schemes only allow new infrastructure to be considered eligible).
2. Amends the definition of primary production enterprise in the Drought Carry-On Finance Loan Scheme (Schedule 4), the Emergency Drought Assistance Loan Scheme (Schedule 5), the Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme (Schedule 39) and the Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan Scheme (Schedule 40) to align with the definition of primary production enterprise used in QRIDA administered Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Schemes.
3. Amends the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme (Schedule 23) and the Rural Landholder Recovery Grants Scheme (Schedule 47) in relation to the National Redress Scheme.
4. Extends the closing date for the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme (Schedule 61) to 30 November 2026 and allows for the potential further extension of

the closing date to 30 June 2027 by publication of an extension notice by the Minister for Primary Industry.

With respect to the changes related to the National Redress Scheme, the National Redress Scheme is an Australian Government program established under the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (National Redress Scheme Act) whose primary aim is to provide redress for individuals who experienced sexual abuse while in the care of institutions.

The Australian Government has made it a requirement under the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy (Redress GCP) that non-government institutions that have declined to join or have not signified their intent to join the Scheme within the required timeframes will be ineligible to receive Australian Government grant funding. Further information on this policy can be found on the website: <https://www.dss.gov.au/national-redress-scheme/national-redress-scheme-grant-connected-policy>.

This policy applies to two Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements schemes that are co-funded by the Australian Government and are administered in Queensland by QRIDA, namely the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme and the Rural Landholder Recovery Grants Scheme.

To comply with this Australian Government requirement, the provisions of these two schemes are being amended to provide that if the applicant is also an institution named under the National Redress Scheme and has either declined to join or is unresponsive to requests to join it will be unable to access assistance under the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme and the Rural Landholder Recovery Grants Scheme.

No human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019* are impacted as a result of this amendment as the National Redress Scheme Act does not apply to individuals and Section 11 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* provides that ‘only individuals have human rights’. The National Redress Scheme Act defines an institution as:

any body, entity, group of persons or organisation (whether or not incorporated), but does not include a family or an individual.

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 Amendment Regulation 2025* 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 Amendment Regulation 2025* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit any of the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Dale Last MP
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES
MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The State of Queensland 2025