



## Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *PU/LM – TF/23/18318 – DOC/23/258215*

06 FEB 2024

The Honourable Mark Furner MP  
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and  
Minister for Rural Communities  
[agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

1 William Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister

Together we have a responsibility each and every day to make Queensland an even better place, to create opportunities, tackle challenges, and deliver for hardworking Queenslanders.

Easing cost-of-living pressures, delivering better healthcare and more housing, and keeping our communities safe are core priorities that we are all responsible for driving, regardless of which portfolio we lead. Collectively, we must also focus on safeguarding Queensland's future by lifting our ambition on climate action, while supporting new industries and creating jobs where they are needed most.

This letter outlines a range of delivery priorities in your portfolio, which I know you will work relentlessly towards achieving.

The highest priorities I want you to focus on as Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities are to:

- support the agriculture sector to sustainably adapt to a changing climate and trade imperatives for sustainable produce
- promote drought resilience in the agriculture sector
- promote rural economic development and work with rural communities to support existing and emerging industries
- keep Queensland safe from biosecurity threats
- develop approaches to balancing the need for forest products with conservation and competing land-uses
- ensure Queensland fisheries are environmentally and economically sustainable.

Listening to the voices of Queenslanders and working closely with other ministers will be essential to achieving meaningful outcomes. The priorities set out in the attached portfolio priority statement will also inform chief executive officer performance agreements and shape the functions and activities of departments and agencies.

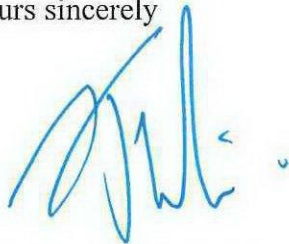
In delivering on these priorities, please ensure you are working with your federal and other Australian state and territory government counterparts to ensure Queensland's interests are proactively represented and the benefits to Queenslanders are maximised. I will meet with you regularly to discuss progress in implementing the actions identified.

At all times, I expect that ministers and assistant ministers will make all decisions and take all actions in the public's interest, without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.

We cannot achieve our goals for Queensland without the public service, and I expect that ministers and their staff will engage with chief executive officers and departmental staff with the utmost respect and in accordance with *The Queensland Ministerial Handbook, Ministerial Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members'* and the *Protocols for communication between ministerial staff members and public service employees*. I refer you to *Governing Queensland* for the suite of policy and administrative handbooks, which is available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website at [www.premiers.qld.gov.au](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au).

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to deliver better services and create opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a small mark to the right.

**STEVEN MILES MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

**\*Encl**

# Portfolio Priorities Statement

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

**Department:** Agriculture and Fisheries

*The Hon Mark Furner MP*

## Whole-of-Government Priorities

<p><b>Overarching Direction</b></p>	<p>All Ministers to work together to deliver the government's priorities for Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting jobs: Good, secure jobs in more industries to diversify the Queensland economy and build on existing strengths in agriculture, resources and tourism.</li> <li>• Keeping Queenslanders healthy: Ensure all Queenslanders can access world-class healthcare no matter where they live.</li> <li>• Educating for the future: Give our children the best start by investing in our teachers and schools.</li> <li>• Listening to Queenslanders: Bring together business, industry, communities, and unions to work together for Queensland's future.</li> <li>• Backing our frontline services: Deliver world-class frontline services in key areas such as health, education, transport and community safety.</li> <li>• Keeping communities safe: Support police to work with the community to tackle the complex causes of crime and support victims.</li> <li>• Making it for Queensland: Grow manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs.</li> <li>• Investing in skills: Ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.</li> <li>• Protecting the environment: Protect and enhance our natural environment and heritage for future generations and achieve a 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032, 75 per cent emissions reduction by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050.</li> <li>• Growing our regions: Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity.</li> <li>• Delivering the Big Build: Drive investment in the infrastructure that supports the State's economy and jobs, builds resilience and underpins future prosperity.</li> <li>• Deliver more homes: Provide more social homes and work with all levels of government to increase housing supply across the state.</li> <li>• Providing cost of living relief: Continue to use our energy assets to deliver savings on energy bills, and freeze or reduce costs where we can.</li> <li>• Honouring and embracing our rich and ancient cultural history: Create opportunities for First Nations Queenslanders to thrive in a modern Queensland.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<p>All Ministers and their staff to meet regularly with the community and key stakeholders to inform policy development and achieve the best outcomes for all Queenslanders.</p>
<p><b>Integrity and Accountability</b></p>	<p>All Ministers and their staff demonstrate transparent, accountable and ethical behaviour and make all decisions and take all actions in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.</p>

<b>Collaboration</b>	All Ministers, supported by their Chief Executive Officers, establish strong working relationships across portfolios to deliver the Government's priorities.
<b>Investing in Our People</b>	All Ministers support their Chief Executive Officers to focus on motivating and increasing the capability of the public sector.

**Government Commitments**

<b>Election Commitments</b>	All Ministers prioritise the delivery of all election commitments.
-----------------------------	--

## Delivery Priorities

<p><b>Agriculture</b></p>	<p>Continue to deliver the <i>Queensland Low Emission Agriculture Roadmap 2022–2032</i> and the Queensland AgTech Roadmap, and support industry-led strategies to enable the sector to sustainably adapt to the global challenges of climate change and technological advance.</p> <p>Continue drought policy reform, to ensure the agriculture sector is prepared and resilient in responding to drought in a changing climate.</p> <p>Continue to deliver drought assistance programs to support producers in managing the drought cycle, including Drought Preparedness Grants and recovery loans.</p> <p>Promote rural economic development through the support of both traditional food and fibre products as well as encouraging niche, new and emerging products.</p> <p>Continue to promote collaboration between industry and government through the Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Council.</p> <p>Improve and expand growth in international markets for agribusiness and exports to meet a rising demand for food security, in consultation with the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment.</p> <p>Build and strengthen partnerships with research organisations, industry bodies and government agencies to leverage expertise and share responsibility for managing risk.</p> <p>Support local solutions to meet the seasonal workforce needs of Queensland's agribusinesses.</p> <p>Continue the Government's work in conjunction with stakeholders to manage wild dogs and feral pests, including through the successful cluster fencing initiative.</p> <p>Deliver the Rural Agricultural Development grants to sheep and goat meat producers, and related business to build their capacity and meet the growth of the industry occurring in Queensland.</p> <p>Implement policies to reduce community harm associated with dangerous dogs.</p>
<p><b>Biosecurity</b></p>	<p>Maintain and enhance Queensland's biosecurity capability to protect the state's agriculture and the environment.</p> <p>Develop, monitor, and enforce animal welfare policy and legislation including implementing recent changes to the <i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</i> and measures to prioritise community safety and promote responsible dog ownership related to the <i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i>.</p> <p>Help to educate the community about animal welfare and standards of care, including any changes to penalties that result from updates to the <i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</i>.</p> <p>Deliver the Enhancing Local Government Biosecurity Capacity in Far North Queensland initiative to work in partnership with local councils on invasive pest control planning and to improve biosecurity capacity in Far North Queensland.</p> <p>Continue oversight of the joint Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce to demonstrate Queensland's commitment to the new National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program.</p>
<p><b>Forestry</b></p>	<p>Facilitate the implementation of the Native Timber Action Plan commitments including for native timber harvesting, plantation program and protected areas.</p> <p>Oversee the development and implementation of a policy on the future of timber production in state-owned native forests in close consultation with industry, government, the conservation sector, and relevant experts. Continue to conduct commercial and environmentally responsible business activity for the allocation and sale of state-owned quarry material.</p>
<p><b>Fisheries</b></p>	<p>Continue to implement the <i>Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027</i> to reduce red tape, support economic recovery and improved management, ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries resources and fishing industry, and play its role in helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef.</p>

	<p>Deliver a legislative framework for recreational and commercial fishers that is contemporary, simple to understand, and reflective of community expectations.</p> <p>Support the Cape York Special Fisheries Group to work with key stakeholders in Cape York to allow traditional owners to utilise charter fisheries and tourism operations to attract new economic pathways, whilst ensuring sustainable fisheries are maintained.</p> <p>Continue to review and adapt the Shark Control Program in line with emerging science, technology and community expectations.</p> <p>Ensure that fisheries legislation is enforced in a manner that is fair, transparent, consistent and achieves an optimal level of compliance.</p> <p>Work closely with the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Innovation to implement Great Barrier Reef fisheries reforms in accordance with the outcomes of the recommendations of the Future Fisheries Taskforce and to report back to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.</p> <p>Work to support the development of a diverse aquaculture industry by delivering a Queensland aquaculture strategy, ensuring world best practice, sustainable practices and encouraging sound investment.</p>
<p><b>Rural Communities</b></p>	<p>Continue to work with rural communities to identify regional economic opportunities, improve the competitiveness of rural business and support the creation of jobs in rural communities.</p> <p>Help rural communities and industry to promote economic continuity, development, and new investment.</p> <p>Boost rural business competitiveness through research, innovation and adaptation across primary industries and regions to create jobs and exports to grow the economy.</p> <p>Work with the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women and contribute to delivering health care to rural areas.</p>
<p><b>National Agreements, National Partnerships &amp; Significant National Reform Projects</b></p>	<p>Support the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment in relation to negotiation, management, and implementation of any intergovernmental funding agreements relevant to your portfolio.</p> <p>Represent Queensland on National Ministerial forums relevant to your portfolio.</p> <p>Support the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, in their role as Queensland's representative on the Australia-New Zealand Food Regulation Ministers' Meeting.</p>