



New #pickqld bonus to attract workers

We know that workforce attraction is a major challenge for our agriculture sector. To help the effort, we're offering new workers a \$1,500 #pickqld bonus.

The \$1,500 is paid in two instalments—an initial \$500 after 10 days of work within a consecutive 28-day period (4 weeks) and a second and final payment of \$1,000 after 30 days of additional work within a consecutive 70-day period (10 weeks).

The [#pickqld bonus](#) is available to workers who started employment from June 1, 2021, who are aged 16 or above and have the right to work in Australia.. Applications are made by the worker via the application portal, with proof of employment and hours required from the employer/s. Payments are made direct to the worker via an Australian bank account.

Industry is encouraged to mention the incentives of up to \$7,500 (the #pickqld bonus plus the Australian government's [AgMove](#) incentive) when advertising for harvest workers, and share links to the [#pickqld website](#).

[Read more](#)



Adoption of AgTech—the key to supply chain profitability

The new [Bundaberg AgTech Hub](#) seeks to unlock the enormous potential of agricultural technology, allowing local agribusinesses to explore the latest innovations and have access to emerging technology and services.

Central Queensland University will use the hub to attract tech companies and trial cutting edge agricultural innovations, including advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and traceability systems with producers and their supply chain partners.

Bundaberg Regional Council has re-purposed an administration building at Bargara to provide a space that will become the nexus for a nationally and globally significant regional AgTech ecosystem.

[Read more](#)



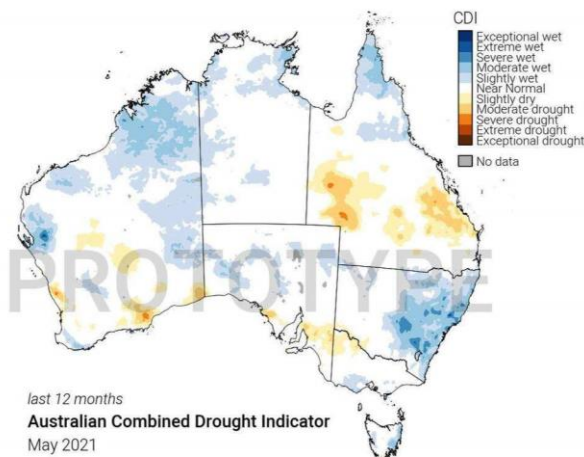
Queensland cucurbits back on NZ menu

Queensland cucurbit growers are once again supplying fresh melon, watermelon, cucumber zucchini, pumpkins and squash to New Zealand (NZ) after trade was suspended in 2019, when NZ biosecurity authorities detected cucumber green mottle mosaic virus in Queensland cucurbits.

In response, the Federal and Queensland governments worked with the Australian melon and vegetable industries, and exporters to develop a Pest Free Place of Production protocol, which was accepted by the NZ Government.

This renewed access into New Zealand will provide a much-welcomed boost to Queensland's cucurbit industry and the economy.

[Read more](#)



The Australian Combined Drought Monitor reached a major milestone

In May, it was announced that recent rainfall across Queensland improved the drought conditions in five local government areas, reducing the [drought-declared area of Queensland](#) from 67.4% to 65%.

Part of the decision to revoke the drought status of the five local government areas was based on the Australian [Combined Drought Indicator \(CDI\)](#). Local Drought Committees used the 12, 24 and 36 month CDI for the first time in their assessment of drought and the CDI supported continuation of drought status in many regions.

The CDI is tailored to Australian conditions based on a mixture of four drought indices—rainfall, evaporation, soil moisture and

a measure of vegetation greenness from satellites. It's a product developed by the [Northern Australia Climate Program](#) with funding from University of Southern Queensland, the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP) and Meat and Livestock Australia's Donor Company.



New \$15,000 small business grants opening soon

Queensland small businesses are being urged to get ready to apply for the new Business Boost grants to help fast-track their plans to improve their efficiency and productivity.

The grants of up to \$15,000 each can be used for upgrades and organisational improvements for established businesses. They can be used for activities such as website development and upgrades, strategic marketing, training and coaching, advisory services and planning for business continuity and succession

You can access information from today to help prepare your applications ahead of applications opening at 9am on 30 July.

[Read more](#)



Fee introduction for apiary health certificates

From 1 July 2021, a fee for issuing an apiary health certificate (biosecurity certificate) will apply to beekeepers wanting to move their bees, hive products or equipment from Queensland to another Australian state or territory. The issuance of a biosecurity certificate is an important service that will help beekeepers meet the interstate movement requirements, and minimise the spread of pests and diseases across Australia.

The payment of biosecurity certificate fees helps share the costs of biosecurity risk management with those who create the risk, and ensures Queensland can continue to fund strong biosecurity.

Get your [apiary health certificate](#) online or contact your local biosecurity inspector on 13 25 23.

You can also get more information on [moving bees](#) and the biosecurity certification [fee schedule](#).

Other states and territory requirements

Other Australian states or territories may require a biosecurity certificate for the movement of biosecurity risk items such as bees, hives, hive products or equipment from Queensland. For information on [interstate quarantine](#), contact the respective state or territory department of agriculture.



Three cheers for BrewLab beers!

TAFE Queensland teachers and students toasted their award-winning Aussie pale ale created in our very own BrewLab at the Food Pilot Plant at Coopers Plains in Brisbane.

The beer won a silver medal at the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show beer awards after being brewed by students enrolled in the Certificate III brewing and fermenting program.

BrewLab also supports industry with pilot-scale beer production, beer chemistry, beer microbiology and more.

Anyone else feeling a little thirsty?



Oh give me land, lots of land under starry skies above...

Having lots of land isn't much good, if your land is in poor condition, so the GRASS program is assisting graziers to improve the condition of poor and degraded land in Great Barrier Reef catchment areas and make changes that'll improve the environment and economic viability.

In this podcast, you'll hear how the program is helping graziers to access experts in the field, as well as get technical and planning support to benchmark and recognise areas for improvement.

[Listen here](#) or find the Turf 'n' Surf episodes on your favourite podcast app.



Have you got a bushfire plan?

Do you know what you'd do if a bushfire was nearing your home? Would you leave early or would you stay and defend?

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have created a guide to take you step-by-step through creating a plan that considers:

- What to do if you choose to leave early
- What to do if you choose to stay and defend
- A backup plan if something unexpected happens


Your answers, along with additional information and advice will be provided in your complete Bushfire Survival Plan summary.

[Read more](#)



Checked in and good to go!

We're using the new Check In Qld app at our offices to help keep your next visit to us COVID safe. All you need to do is:

- ✓ download the app  [Google Play](#) or [Apple App](#) stores
- ✓ fill in your details once
- ✓ scan our QR code when you visit

Using this digital check in means your details will be stored securely by the Queensland Government for 56 days to assist with COVID-19 contact tracing (if needed).

The Check In Qld app is safe, secure and private. By using it, you're helping Queensland stay open, and you can visit us with confidence, knowing you can be contacted quickly and easily if there is any risk of exposure to the virus.

[Read more](#)

COVID-19 has disrupted the way we go about our day-to-day lives and run our businesses.

Sometimes we need to talk about it.

Call us

Lifeline 13 11 14

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636

Headspace 1800 650 890
(Youth mental health and wellbeing)