



QFF News

December 2024



A note from the CEO

Welcome to QFF's December Stakeholder Update. The last few months have been busy for QFF and our peak body members, in the lead up to the Queensland state election and following its result.

QFF and our peak body members have been engaging in critical discussions with the new Government's Premier, Ministers and Departmental staff on priority policy issues including biosecurity, land use planning, workforce shortages, infrastructure, disaster preparedness, water and energy pricing, and other topics essential to the prosperity of Queensland agriculture.

These discussions followed months of concerted advocacy efforts alongside leading industry peak body organisations including the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), the Local Government Association of Queensland, and the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, among others. QFF campaigned alongside these peak bodies on priority issues such as improving the safety of the Bruce Highway, ensuring the 88-days of work in regional Australia remains a component of the Working Holiday Maker visa program and the prioritisation of biosecurity as a whole-of-government focus for the newly elected Queensland Government. You can read more about these advocacy efforts below.

QFF recently welcomed on board two new corporate partners in, [RELA](#), and TSBE. RELA is

Australia's first landowner aligned renewable energy platform. The RELA platform assists landowners by helping them to understand the viability of hosting a renewable energy project, and if they wish to proceed, connects them with developers through a transparent, fair and efficient process for both parties to ensure fair and equitable lease agreements. This partnership builds on QFF's previous work developing the Queensland Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit and supporting farmers to make informed decisions that deliver the best outcomes for their farming enterprise.

The Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise's (TSBE) agribusiness arm, [Food Leaders Australia](#) (FLA). TSBE's FLA exists to support agribusinesses tap into emerging markets, nurture new and existing industries, and embrace sustainability practices, all while developing community engagement and education. QFF look forward to working with TSBE's FLA to advocate on several priorities for the region that are consistent with our state-wide agricultural priorities including water security, food security and biosecurity.

Since our last Stakeholder Update QFF have hosted a number of events bringing together stakeholders from across the Queensland and Australian agriculture sectors to celebrate our sector and network to build a collaborative approach to support the future of Queensland agriculture.

Our annual Celebration of Queensland Agriculture EKKA event, featured speeches from the NFF's CEO Tony Mahar, then Shadow Minister Tony Perrett, and Labor MP Chris Whiting who spoke on behalf of then Minister of Agriculture, Mark Furner. This event was again an excellent opportunity to celebrate Queensland agriculture and reflect on the significant challenges we must face together to ensure the sector's future.

Last month QFF hosted our Annual National Agriculture Day Breakfast in Brisbane's Customs House. This sold-out event featured a speech from the newly elected Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Tony Perrett MP, who discussed the important role of agricultural peak industry bodies, the need to apply a whole-of-government approach to manage the challenges that face the sector, and the importance of celebrating and promoting the achievements of Queensland farmers.

Minister Perrett's speech was followed by a panel discussion featuring Director-General, Department of Primary Industries, Graeme Bolton, Director-General, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Linda Dobe, and Dr. Karen Hussey, Chair of the Emissions Reductions Assurance Committee which prompted the audience to consider the megatrends impacting Queensland agriculture and the need for considered policy

development to ensure the future prosperity of our farm sector.

Throughout the event we shared slides from the Queenslanders Can't Live Without Campaign which QFF and our peak body members Canegrowers, Cotton Australia and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers ran throughout November. The campaign invited the community to consider the Queensland produced food and agriculture items they enjoy every day. You can find the amazing entries the campaign received [here](#).

Finally, QFF hosted our 'Australia 2025' breakfast event in partnership with The Demographics Group, featuring renowned Australian demographer Bernard Salt and colleagues Simon Kuestenmacher and Hari Hara Priya Kannan (Image below).



The event explored topics relating to trends shaping 'Australia 2025' including the opportunities, challenges and implications for Queensland's agriculture sector, regional communities, and the broader state economy. [Read more about the event here.](#)

It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with the QFF board and staff team, peak body members, Corporate Partners and key stakeholders throughout the year to represent Queensland agriculture on the issues that matter to farmers across the state. As we head into the holiday period I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and look forward to working with you in the new year to advance Queensland agriculture.



Jo Sheppard
CEO
Queensland Farmers' Federation

ADVOCACY FOCUS



#FixtheBruce

In August, QFF joined RACQ, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Queensland, the Queensland Trucking Association, and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council in calling for the elimination of all two-star sections of the Bruce Highway and a return to the fairer 80-20 funding split in order to #FixtheBruce. [Learn more here.](#)



88-day working holiday visa

In September, QFF alongside our peak body members and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) called on the Federal Government to not remove the 88 days of regional work requirement from the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program, citing the devastating economic and social impacts this change would have on regional communities. [Watch the video here.](#)



Biosecurity... Everybody's risk, everybody's responsibility

In October, QFF joined peak body members Canegrowers Australia, Cotton Australia and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers as well as the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to urge political parties to commit to prioritising a whole-of-government approach to strengthen the state's biosecurity. [Read more here.](#)

QUEENSLANDERS CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT



Queenslanders Can't Live Without... Farmers!

What food or agricultural product can't you live without?

QFF alongside its peak body members invited Queenslanders to reflect on what farmers mean to them and the agricultural products they can't live without during November as part of our annual National Agriculture Day celebrations.

Through the #QLDersCantLiveWithout Campaign Queenslanders were asked to upload a photo and 25 words, or a 10-15 second video, explaining what agricultural product, food, fibre or foliage item they can't live without. All entries went in the running to win a two-night farm stay in the Scenic Rim with the winner having been announced this week.

More than 250 entries were received as part of the campaign shining the light on the importance of farmers to Queensland daily life.

[View entries from the campaign here.](#)

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING

[Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers](#) long-standing concerns that supermarkets may be manipulating market conditions at the expense of suppliers were reignited following Woolworths' recent testimony at the ACCC Supermarket Inquiry hearings. [Read more here.](#) QFVG have advocated strongly for Queensland horticultural growers throughout 2024 through their [#WeGiveAFork campaign](#) which aimed to raise awareness and drive action to bring much-needed change for the industry.

[Canegrowers](#) recently met with Queensland Premier David Crisafulli and Minister for Primary Industries Tony Perrett to discuss priority issues for the state's sugarcane industry. [Read more here.](#) Following these engagements, Canegrowers also participated in a series of key international meetings in London, strengthening Australia's voice in the global sugar industry.

[Cotton Australia](#) celebrated the Australian cotton industry for achieving new levels of best practice farm operation and improving its international reputation for sustainably grown cotton thanks to an increased take-up of the myBMP program. The latest figures show that an estimated 45% of the Australian cotton crop will be myBMP certified this season. [Learn more here.](#)

[eastAUSmilk](#) have recently highlighted a Diary Australia story which showcases a North Queensland dairy farm with a long-term vision to implementing sustainable farming practices and managing environment conditions. [Read their story here.](#)

[Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland's \(NGIQ\)](#) welcomed new CEO Colin Fruk in

November. Colin is an experienced membership professional with extensive commercial and industry advocacy experience.

KEY SUBMISSIONS THIS QUARTER

- QFF submission to the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – [Central Queensland Water Review](#) – November 2024
- QFF submission to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance - [Northern Basin Toolkit Inquiry](#) - November 2024
- Submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority – [Paraquat and Diquat Proposed Regulatory Changes](#) – October 2024
- QFF Submission to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – [Consultation on draft principles of a National Water Agreement \(Discussion Paper\) \(September, 2024\)](#) – September 2024
- Submission to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – [Review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity](#) – September 2024
- QFF Submission to the Queensland Competition Authority – [Irrigation Price Investigation 2025-2029](#) – September 2024
- Submission to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – [Draft National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan](#) – August 2024
- Submission to the Department of Home Affairs – [Review of Regional Migration Settings](#) – August 2024
- Submission to the [Senate Select Committee on the Impact of Climate Risk on Insurance Premiums and Availability](#) – July 2024
- QFF Submission to Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – [Gulf Water Plan Review July 2024](#) – July 2024

NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS



QFF has partnered with Australia's first landowner aligned renewable energy platform, RELA, to further assist Queensland landholders make informed decisions about renewable energy projects on their property.

Read the [media release here](#)

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) advocates for the region and backs the industrial sectors that are developing it, including agribusiness, energy, manufacturing, professional services, health, education, and export markets.

[Learn more here](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

SmartAg Queensland update

The SmartAg Queensland project continues to go from strength to strength having delivered training to more than 920 farmers across Queensland since June 2024. QFF, alongside peak body members and delivery partners Cotton Australia, Canegrowers and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, have delivered priority training to the cotton, cane and horticulture sectors across Queensland with a 99% completion rate. The team will continue to work with industry to develop bespoke training offers to bridge gaps discovered through the project in 2025.

For more information, please contact



SmartAg Project Manager Jasmin Smith [via email](#).

Resilience and recovery stakeholders brought together to discuss important learnings

QFF's Industry Resilience and Recovery Officers (IRROs) recently hosted their end of year forum, A Flood of Findings, in Toowoomba alongside project delivery partners [Burnett Mary Regional Group](#) (BMRG). Through the IRRO Program, 100 primary producers were supported by QFF, and 97 primary producers by BMRG, to develop Flood Management Plans to build flood recovery capacity, resilience and identify strategies to mitigate farm business risk.

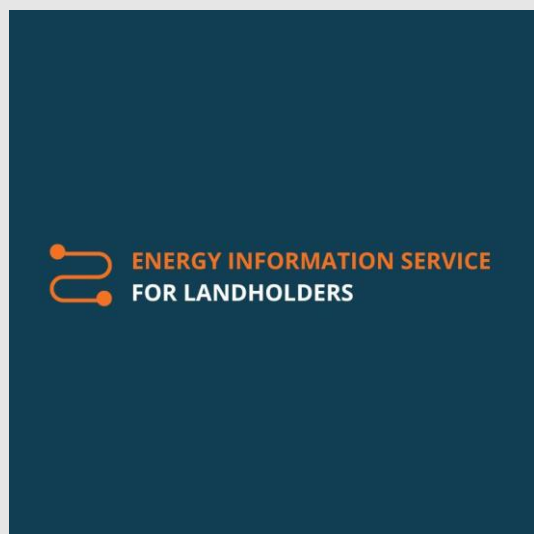
[Learn more here](#)



On-farm and other energy support available to Queensland farmers and landholders

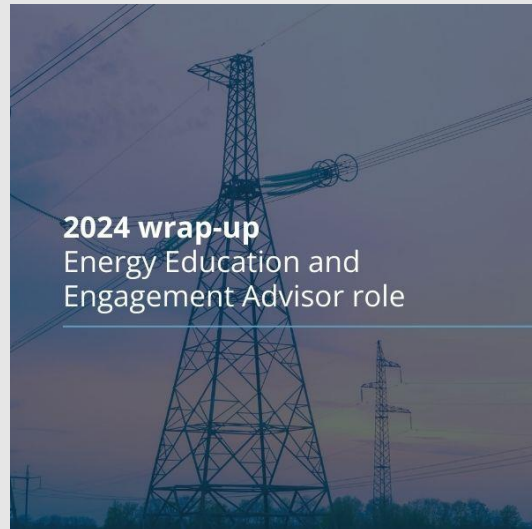
The Energy Information Service for Landholders is a free phone service for farmers and landholders in Queensland can assist by providing information and guidance on a range of energy matters. Call 07 3329 7500.

[Learn more here](#)



Energy Engagement and Education Advisor 2024 wrap-up

QFF's Energy Engagement and Education Advisor (EEEA) has provided an overview of the first six months of the role. The EEEA aims to facilitate meaningful engagement and improve awareness across Queensland's agriculture sector to support the development of policy, projects and initiatives in relation to renewable energy.



[Learn more here](#)

UPCOMING QLD AGRICULTURE EVENTS

- [AARES 2025 Symposium](#) | Brisbane | 11 - 14 February 2025
- [Australian Dairy Conference](#) | Gold Coast | 12 - 14 February 2025
- [Greenlife Industry Australia Conference](#) | Brisbane | 19 - 21 February 2025
- [evokeAG](#) | Brisbane | 18 - 19 February 2025
- [Solar and Storage Live](#) | 26 - 27 March 2025 | Brisbane
- [TSBE's The Chef's Table](#) | 8 May 2025 | Toowoomba
- [FNQ Field Days](#) | Mareeba | 28 - 30 May 2025
- [Elders FarmFest](#) | Toowoomba | 3 - 5 June 2025
- [Hort Connections](#) | Brisbane | 4 - 6 June 2025
- National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo | Geelong, VIC | 23 July 2025
- NGIQ Green Expo 2025 | Gold Coast | 29-30 July 2025
- QFF Celebration of Queensland Agriculture Ekka Event | Brisbane | 12 August 2025
- [National Farmers' Federation Conference](#) | Gold Coast | 24 - 25 September 2025
- [TSBE's Darling Downs Beef Battle Week](#) | 13 - 17 October 2025
- QFF National Agriculture Day Breakfast | Brisbane | 21 November 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



Copyright © 2024 QFF, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as you opted in to our e-news communications via our website.

Our mailing address is:
QFF

