



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Reference: CTS 23059/21

11/11/2021

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Mr Cameron MacMillan
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
GPO Box 211
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr MacMillan

I am writing to you to inform you that the development by a suitably qualified professional adviser of a Farm Business Resilience Plan for a primary production business is to be eligible for assistance under the Farm Management Grants Program.

As you would be aware, Queensland is administering the Farm Business Resilience Planning Program (FBRP) of the Future Drought Fund on behalf of the Federal Government in Queensland.

This important program will provide training to primary producers to improve their drought preparedness and risk management. One aspect of the FBRP proposal is the development by producers of individual farm business resilience plans for their properties. These plans are intended to assist the producer to identify risks, such as drought, for their property and identify the steps the producer will undertake in response to those risks.

To encourage producers to undertake such plans, the Queensland and Federal Governments are providing funding for the Farm Management Grants Program to provide producers with a 50 per cent rebate (up to \$2 500) on the professional advisory costs for the development of such plans. The plan developed must be submitted with the application together with the invoices from the suitably qualified professional adviser(s).

Accordingly, from 11 November 2021, the professional advisory costs associated with the development of an individual Farm Business Resilience Plan is to be eligible for assistance under the Farm Management Grants Program.

To assist the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) in determining whether a plan submitted by an applicant meets the requirements to receive a Farm Management Grant, it should at a minimum, align with the objectives of the FBRP such as are contained in the document Future Drought Fund Farm Business Resilience Program Framework as published by the Federal Government.

Such a plan submitted to QRIDA should cover risks such as:

1. Production risks:
 - climate and weather, including drought
 - natural resource management
 - biosecurity.
2. Business risks:
 - financial viability
 - market.
3. Personal risks:
 - workplace health and safety
 - key people.

The plan should identify if these risks need to be managed and if so, also include an Action and/or Implementation Plan for specific activities that have been identified to manage these risks.

Such plans can take a range of forms and styles. However, they should be tailored and fit for purpose for each farm business.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 4 of Schedule 30 Farm Management Grants Scheme of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*, I have decided to make professional advice obtained by the producer that relates to the development of an individual farm business resilience plan to be eligible professional advice for assistance under the Farm Management Grants Scheme, should it meet the abovementioned requirements.

Further, in accordance with Section 4 of the Schedule, a copy of this decision should be placed on the authority's website.

If you require further information, please contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
Minister for Rural Communities