



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

Our ref: CTS 06976/18
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15 MAY 2018

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

Dear Mr MacMillan

I am writing in regard to the Farm Management Grants Scheme administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

As a part of the Rural Assistance Package announced in the 2016/17 Budget, the Palaszczuk Government has provided a number of measures to support farm viability, including the introduction of the *Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017* and the Farm Management Grants Scheme.

The Farm Management Grants Scheme, currently available to assist with the cost of obtaining professional advice pertaining to farm succession has been well received with 191 applicants receiving assistance since 1 July 2017.

In order to provide further support for primary producers experiencing financial distress, I have decided to extend the Farm Management Grants Scheme to include eligible professional advice that supports primary producers following the finalisation of the farm debt mediation process.

In accordance with Section 4 of Schedule 30 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*, I am notifying you that the following activities are now eligible for assistance under the scheme:

1. professional advice needed to formalise the additional documentation that supports any finalised 'Heads of Agreement' per section 26 of the *Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017* (Qld)
2. professional advice that directly supports the execution of any undertakings outlined in the 'Heads of Agreement' per the Act.

For the sake of clarity, the following costs incurred for professional advice are excluded from eligibility for assistance under the scheme:

1. any advice received during mediation - including the cooling off period
2. any advice pertaining to exercising rights to waive the cooling off period
3. any costs incurred for compensation if Heads of Agreement is revoked (section 30 of the Act)
4. any costs incurred for varying Heads of Agreement (section 30A of the Act).

In accordance with section 4 (3) of the Schedule, QRIDA could place this letter of notification on its website.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Andrew Macey, Principal Policy Officer in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, on 07 3096 6832 or by email at andrew.macey@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries