1. On 30 August 2016, the Government introduced the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016. The Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 includes a legislated farm debt mediation process and transforming the QRAA (formerly the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority) into the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority with new powers and responsibilities.
2. On 26 May 2016, the Member for Mt Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, introduced the Private Members’ Bill the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016.
3. Both Bills were referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for the Bills to be considered concurrently. The Committee tabled its report on 28 November 2016.
4. The Committee agreed that some variations to the NSW approach are warranted and suggested Queensland should lead the way with best practice legislation which could inform and drive a national approach.
5. The Bill also makes unrelated amendments to the *Biological Control Act 1987* to provide more appropriately for use of viruses as control agents; the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to provide for an industry-led assurance certification system as an alternative to government accreditation of certifiers or government certification; and the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* to enable lawful growers of industrial cannabis in Queensland to supply seed to be used for growing medicinal cannabis under a Commonwealth licencing system.
6. Cabinet noted the Finance and Administration Committee Report No. 34 on the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 and the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016.
7. Cabinet decided to not support the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016.
8. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Finance and Administration Committee report on the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 and Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016.
9. *Attachments*
* [Finance and Administration Committee Report No. 34, Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 and Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Government response to the Finance and Administration Committee report on the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 and Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Response.PDF)