



Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Arts

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16 DEC 2016

The Honourable Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Economic Development
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Dear Minister

In November 2016, I announced changes to the Ministry to drive the Government's broad policy agenda with a renewed focus on rural economic development.

We promised to work closely with all Queenslanders to create jobs and strengthen the economy, to deliver quality frontline services, to build safe, caring and connected communities and to protect our environment and quality of life for present and future generations. We have also promised to ensure integrity, accountability and consultation underpin everything we do.

Queenslanders have entrusted us with providing a cohesive and stable Government, and delivering on the promises we have made. It is critical that we work hard to prove ourselves worthy of the trust bestowed on us.

I am writing to each minister and assistant minister to outline the delivery priorities to meet our Government's commitments. For many of these delivery priorities, it will be essential that you work closely and constructively with your colleagues to deliver the best outcome for Queenslanders.

You and your department(s) have a vital role to play. The attached Portfolio Priorities Statement defines your key priorities for this term of Government. It is intended that these priorities will also inform the Chief Executive Officer of performance agreements and shape the functions and activities of the departments. I intend to regularly meet with you to discuss progress in implementing actions identified.

I expect that at all times Ministers will make all decisions and take all actions in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations. I refer you to *Governing Queensland*, on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website at www.premiers.qld.gov.au/publications/categories/policies-and-codes/handbooks.aspx, for a suite of policy and administrative handbooks.

I look forward to working closely with you to deliver great outcomes for Queensland.

Yours sincerely

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

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Portfolio Priorities Statement

Minister: *Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Economic
Development*

Department: *Agriculture and Fisheries*

The Hon William Byrne MP

Whole-of-Government Priorities

Overarching Direction	All Ministers and their staff to work closely with all Queenslanders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• create jobs and a diverse economy• deliver quality frontline services• protect the environment• build safe, caring and connected communities.
Consultation	All Ministers and their staff to focus on meeting regularly with the community and key stakeholders to inform policy development and achieve the best outcomes for all Queenslanders.
Integrity and Accountability	All Ministers and their staff demonstrate transparent, accountable and ethical behaviour and make all decisions and take all actions in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.
Collaboration	All Ministers, supported by their Chief Executive Officers, establish strong working relationships across portfolios to deliver the Government's priorities.
Investing in Our People	All Ministers support their Chief Executive Officers to focus on motivating and increasing the capability of the public sector.

Government Commitments

Election Commitments	All Ministers prioritise the delivery of all election commitments.
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Delivery Priorities

In delivering on the Government's objectives for the community the emphasis for this portfolio should be on:

- building regions and stimulating economic growth and innovation
- conserving nature and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- providing responsive and integrated government services.

You should also work cooperatively across agencies, including Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ), to ensure the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries adopts a whole of supply chain approach to policy.

<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Transition existing drought relief arrangements to include new farm debt mediation arrangements and accreditation of mediators until 2018. Work concurrently with industry to develop a suite of measures to assist producers to improve their climate risk management and preparedness strategies for the longer term.</p> <p>Develop and implement a 10-year research and development blueprint for agriculture and food to enhance scientific collaboration within the State.</p> <p>Continue to implement the Government's response to the review of Queensland's biosecurity capability to restore the State's biosecurity response to world's best practice.</p> <p>Implement a 'one stop' service to facilitate private sector initiatives (for developing appropriate water and land resources in North Queensland on a sustainable basis) through the various approval and development processes of government.</p> <p>Develop a Queensland Government policy on the future of timber production in state-owned native forests.</p>
<p>Fisheries</p>	<p>Adopt a fisheries resource allocation policy based on maximising economic value.</p> <p>Develop an action plan for the development of charter fishing recognising charter fishing as a distinct fishing activity with an economic benefit for the state.</p> <p>Review the regulatory structure of commercial fishing to ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries.</p> <p>Sit down with both recreational and commercial fishing organisations to investigate how a commercial net-free fishing area can be best instituted in Moreton Bay to obtain the maximum gain from the fisheries resource in the Bay for the benefit of the region.</p>
<p>Rural Economic Development</p>	<p>Focus on Rural Economic Development, including through agricultural research and development, biosecurity and the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority by strengthening debt mediation provisions for farmers.</p> <p>Progress the initiatives of the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance under the collaborative agreements established with industry bodies.</p> <p>Work with rural communities to identify regional economic opportunities, improve the competitiveness of rural business and increase the number of jobs in rural communities.</p> <p>Improve economic growth in international markets for agribusiness, in consultation with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment. This includes three government-sponsored trade missions a year in conjunction with industry to promote rural economic development and support both traditional food and fibre products as well as encourage niche and new and emerging products.</p>

<p>COAG National Agreements, National Partnerships and Significant National Reform Projects</p>	<p>Lead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance for pest animal and weed management in drought-affected areas National Partnership Agreement• Established pest and weed management National Partnership Agreement• National Partnership Agreement for Pest and disease preparedness response programmes• National Environment Biosecurity Response Agreement• National Drought Policy. <p>Contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Indigenous Reform Agreement• National Disability Strategy.
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