

QRIDA Reference: John Rossberg

06 Sep 2017



**Queensland Rural and
Industry Development
Authority**

Cameron Hutchison
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Farm Support Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Attention: IGA Review Working Group

Dear Cameron

RE: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Review

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) thanks the IGA review working group for the opportunity to provide feedback on the review.

QRIDA is a specialist provider of government financial and advisory support to rural and regional Queensland.

This support includes the administration of loan and grant schemes for the state of Queensland under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) and the Drought Concessional Loan Scheme, the latter being administered on behalf of the Commonwealth Government for both the state of Queensland and the Northern Territory.

All three schemes support rural businesses impacted directly or indirectly by drought. QRIDA's role in these schemes has been solely as an administrator, policy associated with these schemes is developed at both a state and commonwealth government level.

The following comments are made in our capacity as a scheme administrator.

- Firstly, QRIDA can confirm all schemes administered to support drought impacted farm enterprises in Queensland and the Northern Territory are aligned with the current IGA.
- QRIDA has found farm enterprises often have a number of rural properties which may be located in different states. The IGA provides these farm enterprises with a level of consistency in government drought policy irrespective of the state jurisdiction in which their properties may be located.
- QRIDA are supporters of programs that encourage farm/business planning, succession planning, sustainability, productivity and preparedness. Preparedness for drought rather than solely recovery is considered important for the long-term sustainability of the sector. QRIDA would therefore, be supportive of any intergovernmental agreement that saw drought preparedness as a critical policy component in assisting farming enterprises across Australia to achieve long term sustainability.

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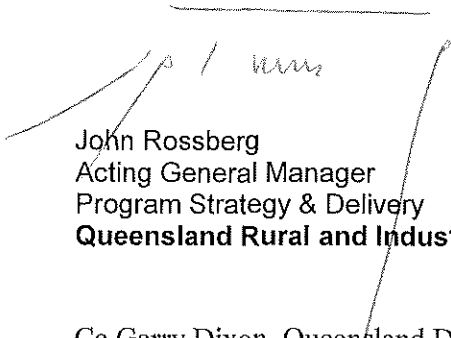
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- Whilst QRIDA has strong existing relationships with industry and non-government organisations in Queensland and the Northern Territory, QRIDA would be supportive of using the IGA as a vehicle to strengthen collaboration across the states with those agencies responsible for scheme administration.

QRIDA would be broadly supportive of a working group recommendation that would see the renewal of the intergovernmental agreement on national drought program reform.

Yours sincerely



John Rossberg
Acting General Manager
Program Strategy & Delivery
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority

Cc Gerry Dixon, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries