



## Due recognition for Ag in LNP policy

Queensland's peak farm group AgForce has welcomed today's release of the LNP's Agriculture Strategy at its state conference on the Sunshine Coast.

LNP leader Campbell Newman promised AgForce delegates his party has a 30-year plan to again recognise agriculture as one of the four key pillars of the Queensland economy.

AgForce president Brent Finlay said the industry needs certainty and long-term planning and, on the surface of it, this policy provides that.

"We welcome the LNP's focus on providing the right environment for profitable primary production and we look forward to having input into the implementation of this policy," Mr Finlay said.

"I'm particularly pleased to see the LNP's commitment to establish a stand-alone department of agriculture with a focus on improving farm businesses rather than increasing red tape.

Other key elements of the plan that could benefit Queensland agriculture include:

- A doubling of agricultural production by 2040
- Protection of strategic cropping land through statutory regional plans (with priority given to the Darling Downs and Golden Triangle areas)
- Support for the construction of the Connors River Dam, Nathan Dam and Water for Bowen Project
- Investment in major transport routes for agricultural products and an improvement in road and rail infrastructure
- Focus on research, development and extension to provide stronger export opportunities
- Improved bio-security systems
- Opposition to the Federal Government's Carbon Tax
- Creation of more apprenticeships for the agriculture sector

AgForce will continue to work co-operatively with both sides of politics to achieve policies that recognise the importance of agriculture to the broader community as a producer of food and fibre.

"Despite the positives in today's LNP Policy for our sector, we will continue discussions with politicians of all persuasions to ensure the best outcomes for our members," Mr Finlay said.

**For comment, contact Brent Finlay on 0414 415 361**

**AgForce media and communications: Jane Paterson 0418 733 102 or [patersonj@agforceqld.org.au](mailto:patersonj@agforceqld.org.au)**

**Who is AgForce?** AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.