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Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone who joined our second AgForce webinar on the EPBC reforms. The strong attendance and volume of questions clearly demonstrate the level of concern across Queensland agriculture about how these reforms apply on ground.

To ensure all members have full access to the information, we are sharing:

- Follow-up summary outlining impacts, advocacy actions and next steps below.

As this information is exclusively available to AgForce members, you will be required to login to our member portal to access this content - [Member Information](#)

- The presentation slides
- AgForce key 2025 Policy outputs:
 - Routine agricultural actions that should not require EPBC self-assessment or referral
 - Agricultural activities that should be classified as "continuous use"

As you do not have access to the member portal, please [click here](#) to activate your portal account. If you have any issues with this process, please contact our Brisbane office or your Regional Manager - [Contact · AgForce · Advancing Rural Queensland](#)

Why this matters for producers

While the Department continues to state that Matters of Environmental Significance (MNES) obligations are not new, the webinar talked to how the expectations around self-assessment, referrals and documentation for agriculture have materially changed.

Members raised consistent concerns about:

- Increased administrative burden for routine land management
- Uncertainty around what activities can proceed without EPBC risk
- Delays to essential infrastructure, fodder harvesting and drainage works
- Mapping inaccuracies and changing MNES listings creating timing and compliance risk
- Potential impacts on land value, PMAVs and business confidence

Why MP engagement is critical

AgForce has been actively advocating for a list of cohesive list of agricultural activities that should be exempt from agricultural assessment in addition to immediate resources and clarification for producers. The issues raised through this webinar demonstrate that current Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) EPBC interpretations are having immediate, practical impacts on Queensland producers.

To ensure Minister Watt understands the gravity of AgForce advocacy, we are asking

- real-world administrative and financial impacts of EPBC Reform,
- unintended consequences of EPBC Reform, and
- perverse environmental outcomes of the EPBC Reform.

See previous eDM for information and links [here](#).

How members can assist

Members can support this work by:

- Using the MP engagement templates provided in recent member emails [here](#)
- Personalising those templates with specific examples from your own operation.

Short and concise examples carry the most weight when they show the real cost to your business, including:

- perverse environmental outcomes caused by regulatory delay rather than improved environmental protection,
- essential drought, fire and flood preparedness works being delayed or abandoned due to undue administrative or financial pressure,
- escalating compliance and management costs that divert time and resources away from productive land stewardship and enhancing ecological outcomes,
- direct impacts on productivity, profitability, land value and future investment decisions.

What AgForce is doing next

AgForce continues to advocate on your behalf by:

- Seeking clear, written guidance on agricultural exemptions and an updated “continuing use” provision that reflect best practice agriculture
- Pushing back on overly broad MNES mapping and self-assessment expectations
- Advocating for safe harbour arrangements where producers act in good faith
- Ensuring Queensland’s regulatory context is reflected in bilateral negotiations
- Actively Co-ordinating with the National Farmers’ Federation and other State Farming Organisations to ensure impacts are amplified.

This is an active, ongoing process that will continue to evolve over the coming months.

Member questions formally progressed

All questions raised during the webinar, including those submitted in the chat and raised verbally, have now been formally compiled and provided to DCCEEW for follow-up and clarification.

This includes questions relating to:

- Regrowth control and fodder harvesting
- Drainage lines, GBR catchments and state exemptions
- Free hold versus lease hold differentiations to interpretations
- Non-native vegetation and WoNS control
- Replacement fencing and infrastructure maintenance
- Mining and gas activities on private land
- Mapping accuracy, safe harbour and timing risk

We will provide members with updates as soon as responses or clarifications are received.

Ongoing updates

As the EPBC implementation position continues to evolve, members will be kept informed through regular EDMs and updates on the AgForce website.

Thank you for your continued engagement and for contributing constructively to this



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