



Create an environment that promotes productivity

Productive and profitable cane farms support regional families, communities and the Queensland economy. Regulations, if poorly designed or implemented, hurt farm businesses, stifle innovation and reduce performance to the lowest acceptable standard.

ENVIRONMENT

Current situation

- Regulations act as a disincentive to the emergence and adoption of more innovative farming practices.
- Growers are meeting environmental compliance demands, particularly Great Barrier Reef regulation obligations, under Smartcane BMP, the industry best management practice program.
- Uncertainty surrounding vegetation management laws inhibits growers from planning to expand their business.

ACTIONS

- Remove regulations on farming practices in Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Recognise Smartcane BMP as the most enduring way for industry to meet obligations to improve water quality.
- Stabilise Queensland's vegetation management framework including provisions for High Value Agriculture and High Value Irrigated Agricultural land, self-assessable clearing codes, and provide incentives for proactive management. ■

TRANSPORT

Current situation

- Agricultural vehicle sizes are generally increasing.
- The system for providing permits to move agricultural vehicles on public roads is inefficient.
- Uncertainty surrounds the process of transferring permit responsibility to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

ACTIONS

- Ensure Queensland government agencies and the Police Service work with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to provide an efficient and effective permitting system.
- Continue to work with industry to provide road access for oversize agricultural vehicles.
- Require the Department of Transport and Main Roads to cooperate with the NHVR to provide access to state-controlled roads through the harmonisation process. ■

