

# An industry development strategy for Queensland's agribusiness and food sector

**We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners and custodians, who for millennia have actively cared for and been nourished by our varied landscapes and seascapes.**

The Queensland Government is seeking your feedback on the way forward for the agribusiness and food sector in Queensland.

The sector is key to Queensland's long-term prosperity, contributing more than \$30 billion to the Queensland economy in 2016–17—it employs more than 300 000 people across the state and continues to grow.

## Purpose of engagement

The aim of this discussion paper is to trigger a conversation about how we can grow a trusted, profitable and sustainable agribusiness and food sector. We are seeking input from anyone with an interest in the future of the sector, including farmers, stakeholders across the supply chain, and the broader Queensland community.

The knowledge and ideas gained from this consultation process will inform an industry development strategy that covers what we are doing now, and what we need to do to in the future to maximise the sector's contribution to Queensland's economy, communities and environment.

## About the strategy

### Scope

The strategy and engagement process include:

- all aspects of industry development and the impacts on, and benefits for, the wider Queensland community and environment
- interests and responsibilities across the Queensland Government, and recognise collaborative and industry-led initiatives
- actions that can be delivered between 2020 and 2025, which will assist in the transition of the sector to meet challenges and opportunities identified over the longer term.
- the role of government to enable industry development through trade and investment attraction, regulatory provisions, market access, supply chain infrastructure, education and training, and fostering innovation.

The opportunities identified in the final strategy will be used to inform government priorities and investment.



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## Strategy outcomes

The strategy will identify broad outcomes and opportunities to:

- improve business capability, productivity and profitability of the sector
- improve sustainability and resource management
- support jobs of the future
- build resilience and risk management capability
- drive innovation throughout the supply chain
- ensure Queenslanders have access to affordable, safe and nutritious food
- grow export capacity and add value to the Queensland economy
- promote regional development and communities
- enable diversification into complimentary agribusiness activities
- ensure government investment is appropriate, effective and efficient.

## Drivers of change

The agribusiness and food sector faces change at an unprecedented scale and pace. These changes will challenge us to produce more value with constrained resources. Continuing to implement a business-as-usual approach presents enormous risk, as it would fail to deal with potentially devastating disruptions that could impede sustainable inclusive growth and prosperity.

<b>Climate change</b> Queensland's climate is changing, along with our ability to grow food and fibre. The sector is in a critical transition phase leading to a future of greater adaptability, emissions reduction and carbon management.	<b>Digital revolution</b> Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way agribusiness and food supply chains operate, shaping the jobs of the future and offering enormous potential for productivity and efficiency gains.
<b>Global connections</b> Global demand is increasing, but so is competition. Queensland industries are trade-exposed, and maintaining trade relationships is critical. Global connections also bring biosecurity risks.	<b>Resource constraints</b> Natural resources are increasingly constrained. Creating more value from sustainable and responsible management of natural assets is essential to our collective future.
<b>People and communities</b> Changes to demographics, technology adoption and evolving business models are shaping the jobs of the future.	<b>Consumer demand</b> Consumer trust is fundamental to the sector. Convenience, provenance, food safety, ethics, sustainability and nutrition are influencing purchasing decisions and demand.

## Discussion paper questions

Use these questions to prompt your ideas around the drivers of change and what you want to see in the future of the agribusiness and food sector.

1. What outcomes are most important to you?
2. What improvement would you like to see in relation to these outcomes over the next five years? How would we measure that improvement?
3. What is the most appropriate role for government in Queensland agriculture? What roles or actions should be left to the private, academic or other sectors?
4. How have you experienced impacts of climate change in relation to agriculture and food? How have you adapted or acted to reduce emissions?
5. What are the key opportunities to reduce emissions in the sector and increase carbon management on the land?
6. What is your experience of adopting digital technology? What was your motivation for the change, how did it happen, what helped or hindered the change?
7. How can we accelerate adoption of digital technology in the sector?
8. How have you, or your industry, responded to increased international demand and competition?
9. As international trade in agriculture and food increases, how can we mitigate risks and facilitate trade to take advantage of opportunities?
10. What is important to you in relation to improving sustainable management of natural resources?
11. How can we make the most of opportunities that arise from improving environmental outcomes, and build on Queensland's 'clean and green' image?
12. What changes have you experienced in consumer demand, and how have businesses and industry responded?
13. How can we respond to changing consumer preferences and promote consumption of healthy, safe Queensland foods?
14. What changes have you seen in relation to the nature of work in the sector, and how have these affected you, your business or community? What further changes are you anticipating and how might you respond?
15. What can we do to prepare for changes in the sector and the impacts on jobs, businesses and rural communities?

## Have your say

Regardless of where you are in the agribusiness and food supply chain, we want to hear from you. We will listen to, and acknowledge, your input and provide feedback on how it has contributed to the development of the final industry development strategy.

Please submit your feedback online or via email or post.

**Online**—complete the online survey at [www.daf.engagementhub.com.au/growing-for-queensland](http://www.daf.engagementhub.com.au/growing-for-queensland)

**Email**—email your written submission to [Growing4Qld@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Growing4Qld@daf.qld.gov.au)

**Post**—mail your written submission to:

Growing for Queensland

GPO Box 46

Brisbane Qld 4001

Submissions close midnight, Saturday 31 August 2019.

For more information, visit [daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au) or call **13 25 23**. For a hard copy of the discussion paper, call 13 25 23.

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