



What does a commissioner do?

- Statutory independence
 - Non-political
- Focused on one area



What does the Food Farmers' Commissioner do?

Work with Queensland's Food Farmers to connect the dots between produce, policy, people, place & purpose.

I help farmers solve problems – some have already happened; some we are trying to prevent.



The Job

Central point of contact for QLD Farmers support



Commissioner assessment of issue



Problem solving



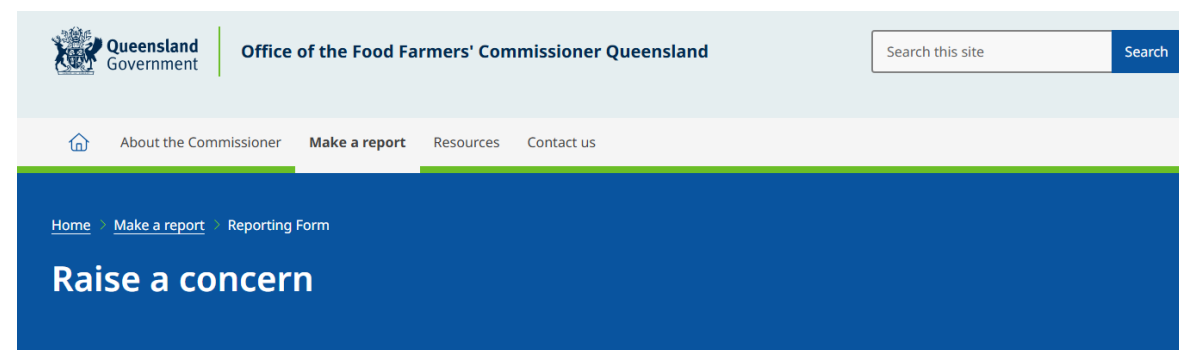
Reports / Guidance / Recommendations to support industry



Theme Report to Minister (DPI)



Website and Online Portal



[About the Commissioner](#)



[Make a report](#)



[Resources](#)

The Office of Food Farmers Commissioner (OFFC) supports the future of Queensland food farmers by:

- Staying informed on current issues
- Identifying emerging challenges
- Taking action to address needs as they arise

Please use this form to share an issue, experience, idea, concern, or example from your business or supply chain.

- You can include as much or as little detail as you're comfortable with.
- You are most welcome to remain anonymous; however please note that if we cannot contact you, we will be unable to provide updates.
- The form has 5 questions and should take around 3 minutes to complete.

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).



Our Approach to Issues

- What does this mean for the QLD farmer?
- What does this mean for QLD industry as a whole?
- What does this mean for other industry / stakeholders?
- What does this mean for QLD Government?
- What does this mean for Australian Government?
- What does this mean for consumers?
- **What is no one else seeing?**



Issues raised with the office

- Input costs, lack of profit in farming
- Inefficiencies in overlapping QA systems, audits and CAR requirements
- Missing produce in transportation
- Food safety concerns
- Industry levies usage
- Horticulture and the Food and Grocery Code – advice – based around good faith negotiations
- Financial issues, including payroll tax payments
- National measurement act (consumer charging)
- Global standards impact on domestic production (interpretation guidance)
- Illegal importation of food products concerns
- Imports impacting domestic supply
- Biosecurity concerns
- Packaging concerns
- Good faith negotiation concerns
- Land use concerns
- Policy, regulations and legislation concerns (various)
- Workforce concerns
- Animal welfare concerns



The common thread in matters raised

- Lack of profitability (“resilience without profitability is just managed decline?”)
- Varies with industry and season but overall, there is a theme where input costs have escalated far beyond any corresponding return - regardless of crop or commodity.



6 months in...

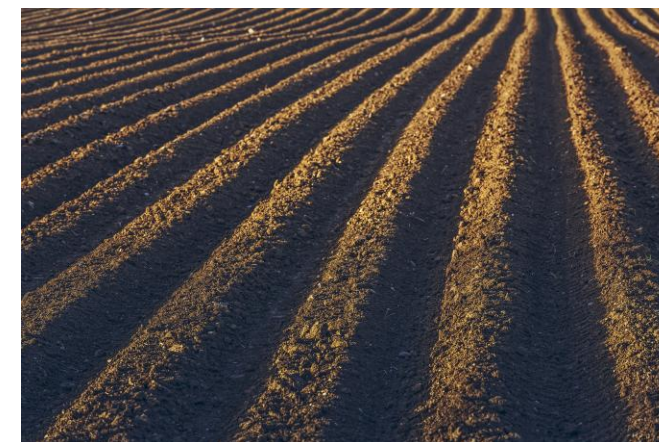
- How on earth is this role going to most benefit farmers?
- With so many issues, how do I prioritise and bring about the most positive change during my term?
- How do we shift from reactive, detail-oriented ‘firefighting’ / Band-Aid fixes to strategic, systemic thinking to identify root causes, rather than just treating symptoms?



What is our definition of a Prosperous Farmer?

A prosperous food farmer is one who operates a business that consistently generates **sufficient returns to invest, innovate and grow.**

This prosperity enables farmers to improve productivity and efficiency, be prepared for shocks and disruptions, and pursue environmental and social outcomes. Supported by **stable, functional and fair** supply chains and reliable *market access*, prosperous food farmers have the confidence to **reinvest in their businesses, support succession planning and encourage the next generation into food production.**





What is our definition of Secure Food?

Queenslanders, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (adopted from the UN definition of food security).





Our Approach

Mission: Translating food security into actions and outcomes, through 7 key lenses:

- Production
- Nutrition and Public Health
- Economic
- Access and equity
- Land Stewardship
- Infrastructure
- Governance



Office of the Food Farmers' Commissioner Queensland 2026 - 2028 strategic direction													
Vision: Prosperous Food Farmers, Secure Food													
<p>Definition of prosperous food farmers A prosperous food farmer is one who operates a business that consistently generates sufficient returns to invest, innovate and grow.</p> <p>This prosperity enables farmers to improve productivity and efficiency, be prepared for shocks and disruptions, and pursue environmental and social outcomes. Supported by stable, functional and fair supply chains and reliable market access, prosperous food farmers have the confidence to reinvest in their businesses, support succession planning and encourage the next generation into food production.</p>							<p>Definition of secure food Queenslanders, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (adopted from the UN definition of food security).</p>						
Mission: Translating food security into actions and outcomes in Queensland.													
<p>Food security framework The Office of the Food Farmers' Commissioner approaches food security through 7 key lenses and 14 critical inputs. While every part of the food system is vital and interconnected, this framework recognises that all elements ultimately depend on each other and all are ultimately founded on a viable and functioning production base.</p>													
Production lens		Nutrition and public health lens		Economic lens		Access, equity and cultural lens		Land stewardship lens		Infrastructure lens		Governance Lens	
<p>Key question: <i>Are we producing enough quality food?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Is food supporting population health?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Is the food system economically viable for producers and consumers?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Can everyone access the food they need?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Can the food system endure without degrading the environment?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Do we have the infrastructure needed?</i></p>		<p>Key question: <i>Are we focussed on improving the governance structures to ensure we are all making decisions with food security in mind?</i></p>	
Agrichemicals	Biosecurity	Climate	Capital/Credit	Energy	Fertiliser	Fuel	Genetics - animal/plant	Geopolitics/Trade	Infrastructure	Labour	Land/Soil/Sea	Market/Consumers	Water
Minister's expectations of the office													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue building trust with industry, including promotion of the Commissioner's online portal • Engage with industry to support a market reporting tool that aggregates anonymised pricing data to improve market awareness and negotiating power for farmers • Liaise with the Federal Government in relation to implementation of recommendations from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) supermarket inquiry • Liaise with the Federal Government in relation to the National Food Security Strategy, including on opportunities to support Queensland farmers to contribute to our national food security • Work with the Department of Primary Industries to support priority areas, including supporting <i>Primary Industries Prosper 2050</i>. 													



Soil: a hidden foundation of food security.

Australian farmers and producers are operating in an increasingly challenging environment. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe; input costs remain volatile and global market uncertainty continues to put pressure on farm businesses. At the same time, there is growing recognition that farming systems built on healthy soils and functional landscapes are better equipped to withstand these pressures



Most conversations soil quality are from an environmental / ideological lens

Economics vs ideology – **economics wins**





Food, Farming
& Countryside
Commission

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Paying the Price

Cheap food, big business and the cost to farming and food security

13th March 2025

DOWNLOAD →

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT →

Britain's food has been cheapened for decades. In the push to produce low-cost calories, farmers' incomes have stagnated, a small number of companies now dominate Britain's food chain, and immense costs to people's health and nature have piled up. In a volatile world facing the effects of climate change and turbulent politics, the country's long-term food security is at risk.

Can farmers step off the treadmill on which they're being forced to run faster and faster?

Can businesses be encouraged to generate long-term, public benefits?

Is it possible to do all this while ensuring all households have enough healthy food?

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government



Food farming challenges in June 2026

<p>Profitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Low profit•Input costs•Market concentration•Interest rates•Labour shortages•Supply and demand issues	<p>Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Impending Drought•Natural disasters•Water security•Biosecurity•Energy reliability
<p>Sovereignty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Dependence on input imports•Attractive import costs•Supply chain uncertainty•Global market uncertainty•Global geopolitical instability	<p>Future Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Loss of agricultural land•Workforce succession•Infrastructure constraints•Policy uncertainty•Community expectations



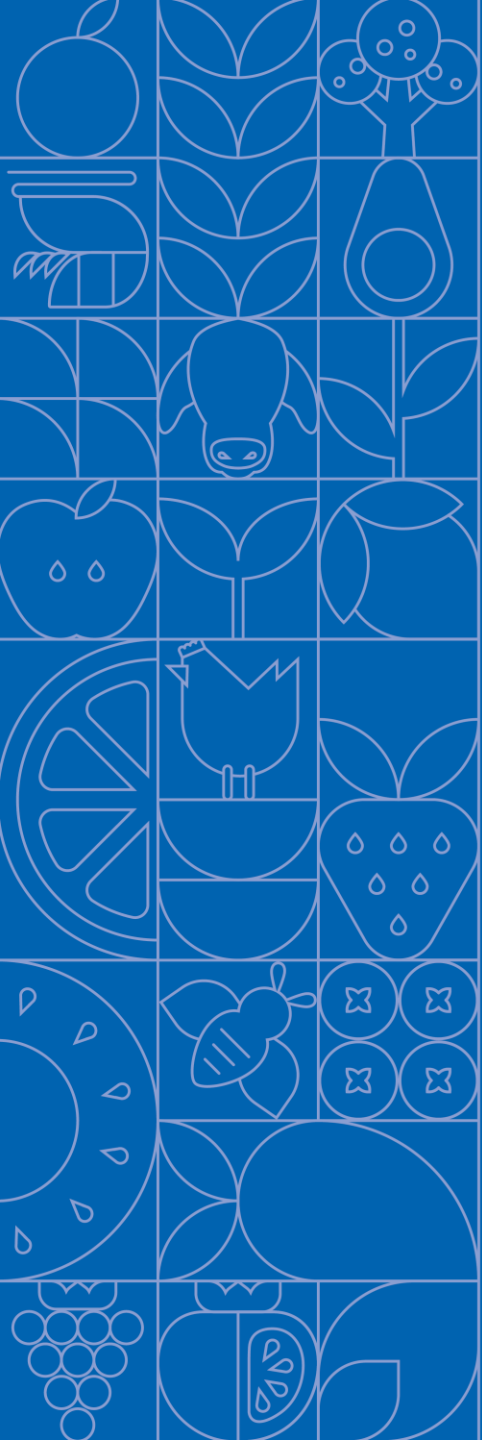
Food security is not simply about whether food is grown. It is about whether food can continue to be processed, transported, distributed, purchased and accessed during periods of stress or disruption.

It also recognises the importance of affordability and equity.

Food may physically exist within the country, but if households cannot afford it, or communities cannot access it, food security has still failed.



“Food may be hidden in plain sight, and soil may be just plain hidden, but neither can remain invisible if we are serious about the future of Australian food security”.



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How good is food!

Thank you

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