



6 May 2020

GENERAL MESSAGE – NEW QLD SEASONAL WORKFORCE FRAMEWORK

The Queensland Government has introduced a new framework that will enable the agriculture sector to access a seasonal workforce while still meeting COVID-19 public health obligations. These changes align with the National Cabinet decision to support agriculture and secure Australia's food supplies.

The government's priority is to prevent the introduction, minimise the spread, and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19 in Queensland. The new framework does this by introducing measures for the workplace, accommodation and transport.

The framework consists of five key elements:

1. **Stronger border protections** – all seasonal workers entering Queensland who have been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days must self-quarantine for 14 days prior to commencing work at an agribusiness operation.
2. **Mandatory health plans** – an agribusiness or labour hire company employing seasonal workers, accommodation facilities that house seasonal workers, and private workforce transport providers that offer services to these businesses, must have a health management plan.
3. **General health obligation** - all businesses wishing to employ seasonal workers, and employees travelling to Queensland for work, have a general health obligation to help keep Queensland as safe as possible by following Queensland's health directives for COVID-19.
4. **Stronger compliance** – additional officers from regulatory agencies are currently being authorised under the *Public Health Act 2005*.
5. **Locally led solutions** – the Queensland Government is working with Local Disaster Management Groups to develop local solutions to address accommodation, transport and workforce supply issues. Additional support is provided through the District Disaster Management Groups and the State Disaster Coordination Group.

These changes are designed to protect businesses, their employees and the community from the introduction and spread of COVID-19.

Resources

- More information on these changes are available online for businesses, including templates for the health management plans [here](#).
- Information for seasonal workers, including temporary visa holders [here](#).
- A collection of downloadable flowcharts, general information and FAQs developed by the QLD Govt have been grouped together on the ALFA COVID-19 Resources webpage [here](#).

If you have any questions about the new framework, please email direct to DAFCOVID19Enquiries@daf.qld.gov.au



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