



# QLD AGRI INDUSTRY BANDS IN FIGHT FOR NATIONAL OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC QUALITY ASSURANCE

Media Release

Farming advocacy groups from across Queensland have joined forces in an effort to see the establishment of a national Office of Scientific Quality Assurance (OSQA) that would deliver scientific rigour around important policy making decisions.

Farmers United Director Russell Hall said it's a powerful statement to see organisations who represent farmers from the Cape to Coolangatta united in their approach.

"It was a significant moment to see industry leaders such as AgForce, Canegrowers, Green Shirts and Farmers United sitting around the same table in total agreement about a way forward," Mr Hall said.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to praise the agricultural industry across Queensland for its united approach on the important issue of science sense, as well as Dr Peter Ridd and the Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen who provided invaluable input.

"For far too long, farmers have been on the receiving end of unworkable government policy that is destroying our industries and having little positive impact on the environment. The establishment of an OSQA would allow for scientific rigour around important policy making decisions.

"If and where problems are identified, we can then work together with organisations such as the Australian Institute of Marine Science to achieve even better outcomes."

Around 56,000 Queenslanders work in farming and a further 41,000 work in food manufacturing in Queensland.

Mr Hall said it's important those jobs are protected from the impacts of policy based on science fiction.

"We support sustainable food systems- *science sense* that puts facts first and removes the hysteria which is currently driving decision making. An OSQA would support better decision making based on fact," Mr Hall said.

"*Science sense* equals better decisions and better outcomes for all Australians- it's that simple."

A working group has been established to drive the OSQA forward.

More information on the Farmers United Policy Reform Agenda can be found at <https://www.farmersunited.com.au/our-policies>

