

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report No. 34 on the

Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 19 November 2013, the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, introduced the *Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013* (the Bill) into the Legislative Assembly.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee (the Committee) for consideration and report to the Parliament by 3 February 2014.

On 3 February 2014, the Committee tabled its report (No. 34) about the Bill (the report).

The Queensland Government response to the Committee's recommendations as outlined in the report is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its detailed consideration of the Bill and its recommendations.

Recommendation 1 –

The committee recommends that the *Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013* be passed.

Queensland Government response:

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and appreciates the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 2 -

The committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or his delegate ensure that Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges continues to meet key performance indicators that will be relevant to the quarterly reviews required by the legislation.

Queensland Government response:

The Government accepts the Committee's recommendation.

The Bill makes a number of amendments that seek to ensure that the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges, as a statutory body with a governing board, is accountable for its performance. Specifically:

- The Minister may give the corporation a statement of expectations with which the corporation must comply.
- The corporation must submit a strategic plan to the Minister.
- The corporation must ensure that the corporation performs its functions and exercises its powers in a proper, effective and efficient way.
- The board must ensure that the corporation acts in accordance with its strategic and operational plans.
- The board must account to the Minister for the corporation's performance.
- The chairperson of the board must provide quarterly reports to the Minister on the performance of the corporation's functions.

These amendments are being made to address deficiencies in the corporation's structure and management accountability, as identified by Ernst & Young in its 2012 review. The Government is committed to taking all steps necessary to reinstate strategic and operational planning and reporting to strengthen the corporation's performance.