



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

**Report on subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2025 and
18 November 2025**

Primary Industries and Resources Committee



Report No. 13

58th Parliament, January 2026

Overview

This report summarises the committee's findings following its examination of the subordinate legislation within its portfolio areas tabled between 27 August 2025 and 18 November 2025. It reports on any issues identified by the committee relating to the policy to be given effect by the legislation, fundamental legislative principles and lawfulness. It also reports on the compliance of the explanatory notes with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA).¹ The report notes any issues identified by the committee in its consideration of compliance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA)² and the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation.³

Subordinate legislation examined

No.	Subordinate legislation	Date tabled	Disallowance date
120	Rural and Regional Adjustment (Feral Pest Exclusion Fencing Grants Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025	14 October 2025	12 February 2026
138	Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025	18 November 2025	26 March 2026
140	Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025	18 November 2025	26 March 2026

* Disallowance dates are based on proposed sitting dates as advised by the Leader of the House. These dates are subject to change.

Committee consideration of the subordinate legislation

Committee Comment



Unless noted below, the committee did not identify any significant issues regarding the policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles, the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation or non-compliance with the HRA.

Similarly, unless noted below, the committee considers that the explanatory notes tabled with the subordinate legislation noted in this report comply with the requirements of section 24 of the LSA, which includes advice about consultation, and that the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation provide a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to their compatibility with the HRA.

¹ *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, Part 4. See also, LSA s 4.

² *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 8, 13.

³ *Human Rights Act 2019*, s 41.

1 SL No. 120 – Rural and Regional Adjustment (Feral Pest Exclusion Fencing Grants Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025

The aim of SL No. 120 is to introduce the feral pest exclusion grants scheme.⁴ This scheme is aimed at ‘improving the sustainability of Queensland’s regions and the growth of the agricultural sector’ by reducing the impact of wild dog predation on livestock production.⁵ A total of \$3 million has been allocated to the scheme.⁶ According to the explanatory notes:

... the scheme offers grants of up to \$5,000 per kilometre, capped at 50 kilometres, to eligible landholders in the identified areas of regional Queensland for exclusion fencing projects. Applicants must operate a primary production enterprise involving goat, sheep, or cattle grazing and be impacted by wild dog predation.⁷

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) will administer the scheme and assess applications against their benefit to an eligible rural area in reducing the predation of livestock by wild dogs.⁸ If QRIDA refuses an application, written notice must be provided to the applicant.⁹

SL No. 120 also:

- increases the maximum loan amount of a concessional loan for primary producers from \$250,000 to \$5 million for the March-April 2025 Western Queensland flood disaster under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)¹⁰
- makes administrative amendments to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*, including amendments to definitions such as ‘primary production enterprise’ and ‘primary producer’.¹¹

1.1 Consultation

The explanatory notes detail consultation that was undertaken ‘with the livestock industry’ regarding the introduction of the scheme. The Australian Government’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was consulted with regards to the amendments to the DRFA schemes. According to the explanatory notes, NEMA supported the amendments to definitions, and approved Queensland’s request to increase the size of

⁴ SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 1.

⁵ SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 4.

⁶ SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 2.

⁷ SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 2.

⁸ SL No. 120, s 15 (Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011, new sch 63, s 12); explanatory notes, p 2.

⁹ SL No. 120, s 15 (Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011, new sch 63, s 13).

¹⁰ SL No. 120, s 5 (Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011, amends sch 2); explanatory notes, p 2. The Australian Government approved the increase in the size of the concessional loan under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements, which are delivered by QRIDA.

¹¹ See explanatory notes, pp 2-4.

the concessional loans.¹²

An Impact Analysis Statement (IAS) was completed and concluded that no further regulatory impact analysis was required, as the regulation does not increase costs or regulatory burden on businesses or the community.¹³

1.2 Committee request for additional information

On 20 November 2025, the committee wrote to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (DNRMMRRD) requesting further information in relation to the scheme, including:

- the rationale/methodology used to decide which local government areas are defined as eligible rural areas
- the rationale/criteria used to determine which feral animals are covered by the scheme, noting that the amending regulation only references wild dogs.

On 8 December 2025, DNRMMRRD provided a response, noting that the scheme is administered by QRIDA, and is part of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, which is overseen by Biosecurity Queensland within the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).¹⁴

In relation to local government eligibility criteria, DNRMMRRD advised the committee that DPI provided the following advice:

The local government areas eligible are listed as Rural and Remote Councils on the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers website. These regional and rural areas are suitable for sheep and wool production and are characterised by high wild dog populations or evidence of predation impacts on industry.¹⁵

In relation to the rationale used to determine which feral animals are covered by the scheme, DNRMMRRD advised the committee that DPI provided the following advice:

Wild dogs are noted as being the biggest predatory threat to livestock production in the AgForce Sheep and Goat Blueprint (www.agforceswag.com.au) which was considered by the government in the development of the Scheme. Accordingly, the dog proof fencing that will be funded under the Scheme will protect individual properties in the livestock industry from wild dog predation and will improve farm viability.¹⁶

1.3 Legislative Standards Act 1992

Assessment of SL No. 120's compliance with the LSA did not identify any issues of fundamental legislative principle.

1.4 Human Rights Act 2019

The committee's assessment of SL No. 120's compatibility with the HRA did not identify

¹² SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 6.

¹³ SL No. 120, explanatory notes, p 6.

¹⁴ Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, correspondence, 8 December 2025, p 1.

¹⁵ Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, correspondence, 8 December 2025, p 1.

¹⁶ Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, correspondence, 8 December 2025, p 1.



any incompatibilities. The committee concluded that SL No. 120 is compatible with human rights.

1.5 Human Rights Certificate

The human rights certificate tabled with the subordinate legislation provides a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

1.6 Explanatory Notes

The explanatory notes comply with part 4 of the LSA.

2 SL No. 138 – Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025

The primary objective of the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025 (SL No. 138) is to amend the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011 (Regulation) to:

- introduce the new Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme (IPR Scheme)¹⁷
- amend several agriculture related schemes of financial assistance to clarify that the relevant minister, chief executive or department for the purposes of that scheme is the minister, chief executive or department responsible for primary industries¹⁸
- reopen the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme (WAT Grants Scheme)¹⁹ to applications with a closing date of 30 June 2026.²⁰

Irrigation pricing rebate scheme

The new IPR Scheme provides assistance with the cost of irrigation water by providing a 15 per cent rebate on eligible irrigation bills issued for one of the quarters in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.²¹

According to the explanatory notes, the irrigation rebate applies to:

- irrigation entities (that are listed in schedule 64 and hold an allocation from Sunwater and pass on the charges to members or customers of the irrigation entity)²²

¹⁷ SL No. 138, s 13 (Regulation, inserts new sch 64). In place of the existing blanket discount applied across all accounts, including to public companies, multinationals and foreign held entities, the 15 per cent rebate will be more targeted to owner-operated type businesses and delivered via a rebate scheme administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 2.

¹⁸ SL No. 138, ss 3-5, 7-12.

¹⁹ The purpose of the WAT Grants Scheme is to help holders and lessees of particular taxi service licences to meet the cost of acquiring new wheelchair accessible taxis. SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 3.

²⁰ SL No. 138, s 6 (Regulation, amends sch 15, s 13).

²¹ SL No. 138, s 13. The explanatory notes state that \$25.3 million been made available under the IPR Scheme and the administration costs will be funded within this allocation. The IPR Scheme closes on 31 December 2027 or earlier if the funds have already been expended. SL No. 138, explanatory notes, pp 2, 4.

²² SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 2.

- qualifying businesses (defined as businesses that grow crops requiring irrigation and at least one of the owners of the business spends labour on the business, and the business or one of the owners declares assessable primary production income for tax purposes).²³

Agriculture related schemes

The clarifying amendments to the various agriculture related schemes of financial assistance were required due to machinery of government changes in 2024.²⁴

Wheelchair accessible taxi grants scheme

Applications under the WAT Grants Scheme were previously to be received no later than 30 June 2025, however under SL No. 138 the scheme is reopened for applications²⁵ with a new closing date for assistance on 30 June 2026.²⁶

2.1 Consultation

The explanatory notes state that the amendment regulation was assessed by DNRMMRRD as minor and machinery in nature, and that an IAS has been approved for publication.²⁷ More specifically, the notes state that the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers consulted with Sunwater, Seqwater and Queensland Treasury as well as the irrigation industry with regards to the Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme, and that Translink consulted with the taxi industry with regards to the provision of additional funding for the WAT Grants Scheme.²⁸

2.2 Legislative Standards Act 1992

Assessment of SL No. 138's compliance with the LSA did not identify any issues of fundamental legislative principle.

2.3 Human Rights Act 2019

The committee's assessment of SL No. 138's compatibility with the HRA did not identify any incompatibilities. The committee concluded that SL No. 138 is compatible with human rights.

2.4 Human Rights Certificate

The human rights certificate tabled with the subordinate legislation provides a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

²³ To be a qualifying business, the applicant must be a customer of a water supplier or a pass-on entity for the business is a customer of a water supplier. SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 2. A pass-on entity, for a qualifying business, means an entity that—(a) has an arrangement with another entity operating the business; and (b) is issued an eligible irrigation bill payable by the other entity under the arrangement. SL No. 128, s 13 (Regulation, sch 64, s 6(2)).

²⁴ SL No. 138, explanatory notes, pp 2-3.

²⁵ From the date the regulatory amendment is approved by Governor-in-Council.

²⁶ SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 3.

²⁷ SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 4. A Summary IAS dated October 2025 was subsequently published on the department's website.

²⁸ SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 4.

2.5 Explanatory Notes

The explanatory notes generally comply with part 4 of the LSA. However, an explanatory note must include, if consultation took place about the subordinate legislation, a brief statement of the way the consultation was carried out, an outline of the results of the consultation, and a brief explanation of any changes made to the legislation because of the consultation.²⁹ With respect to SL No. 138, the explanatory notes provide only the following:

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers consulted with Sunwater, Seqwater and Queensland Treasury as well as the irrigation industry with regards to the Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme. Translink consulted with the taxi industry with regards to the provision of additional funding for the WAT Grants Scheme.³⁰

Committee Comment



The committee emphasises the importance of ensuring that information relating to Queensland legislation is readily available so as to promote effective scrutiny and oversight.

The committee encourages the department to ensure that explanatory notes accompanying subordinate legislation comply with section 24 of LSA. Explanatory notes for subordinate legislation should include an outline of the results of consultation undertaken, along with a brief explanation of any resulting changes to the legislation.

3 SL No. 140 – Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (AMCD Act) provides that a regulation may prescribe an entity as an approved entity if the Minister is satisfied of certain matters, including that the entity conducts an accreditation scheme for persons who breed dogs.³¹

The Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025 (SL No. 140) prescribes 2 additional dog breeding organisations as approved entities.³² As with other approved entities, these organisations must make particular information available to the chief executive if it is requested. This information may be used to help enforce compliance with the AMCD Act, including in relation to puppy farms.³³

3.1 Consultation

According to the explanatory notes, DNRMMRRD did not undertake consultation as the regulation applies exclusively to two specific entities seeking approved status. DNRMMRRD noted that it engaged directly with the two applicants. A Summary IAS was prepared, concluding that the amendments are minor and machinery in nature, with no

²⁹ LSA, s 24(2).

³⁰ SL No. 138, explanatory notes, p 4.

³¹ *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, s 43W.

³² SL No. 140, s 3; SL No. 140, explanatory notes, p 1.

³³ SL No. 140, explanatory notes, pp 1-2.

further regulatory impact analysis required.³⁴



3.2 *Legislative Standards Act 1992*

Assessment of SL No. 140's compliance with the LSA did not identify any issues of fundamental legislative principle.



3.3 *Human Rights Act 2019*

The committee's assessment of SL No. 140's compatibility with the HRA did not identify any incompatibilities. The committee concluded that SL No. 140 is compatible with human rights.

3.4 *Human Rights Certificate*

The human rights certificate tabled with the subordinate legislation provides a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

3.5 *Explanatory Notes*

The explanatory notes comply with part 4 of the LSA.



Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly note this report.

³⁴ SL No. 140, explanatory notes, p 3.



Mr Stephen Bennett MP

Chair

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

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