



Enquiries to: Office of the Chief Health Officer  
and Deputy Director-General  
Queensland Health

Queensland Health

Mr Robert Gee  
Director-General  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Dear Mr Gee

**Approval for farmers and agribusiness workers to move across the Queensland border by air or road for farming and agribusiness – *Border restrictions Direction (No. 31)* or its successors**

I, Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer, have provided an exemption on the conditions set out below for farmers and agribusiness workers as an exempt class of persons under *Border restrictions Direction (No. 31)* or its successors, or unless amended or revoked, for the farmers and agribusiness workers described below.

**This approval does not apply to workers involved in picking, packing, sorting, and meat processing, and does not permit farmers and agribusiness workers to enter Queensland for any other purpose as per the *Border restrictions Direction (No. 31)*.**

Queensland residents

Queensland residents who are entering Queensland by air or road -

- a. after entering a COVID-19 hotspot in New South Wales outside of the **border zone** to perform essential agribusiness services for the agriculture supply chain or farming activities that can only be performed in the COVID-19 hotspot; or
- b. after entering a COVID-19 hotspot in New South Wales outside of the **border zone** to access or provide timely veterinary services, or to provide care for livestock, that can only be accessed or provided in a COVID-19 hotspot.

New South Wales residents

New South Wales residents who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in New South Wales outside of the **border zone** who are entering Queensland by air or road -

- a. to perform essential agribusiness services for the agriculture supply chain or farming activities that can only be performed in Queensland; or
- b. to access or provide timely veterinary services, or to provide care for livestock, that can only be accessed or provided in Queensland.

The **border zone** comprises the geographical areas within the postcodes and Local Government Areas in Schedule 3 of the Border Restrictions Direction (No.31). These areas are also represented visually on a map published on the Queensland Health website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/covid19/travel-declaration-map>.

A Queensland resident or New South Wales border zone resident is permitted to travel between Queensland and the New South Wales border zone for permitted purposes, including work, provided they have not been in a COVID-19 hotspot outside of the border zone in the previous 14 days.

#### No travel to Greater Sydney

Farmers or agribusiness workers who have travelled to a **Greater Sydney local government area** are not permitted to enter Queensland under this exemption unless 14 days has passed since they were in Greater Sydney. Only travel to a New South Wales COVID-19 hotspot outside of Greater Sydney is permitted, for the purposes stated above.

The **Greater Sydney local government areas** are:

Bayside  
Blacktown  
Blue Mountains  
Burwood  
Camden  
Campbelltown  
Canada Bay  
Canterbury-Bankstown  
City of Sydney  
Cumberland  
Fairfield  
Georges River  
Hornsby  
Hunter's Hill  
Inner West  
Ku-ring-gai  
Lane Cove  
Liverpool  
Mosman  
North Sydney  
Northern Beaches  
Parramatta  
Penrith  
Randwick  
Ryde  
Strathfield  
Sutherland  
The Hills  
Willoughby  
Woollahra  
Sydney Harbour – Unincorporated Area

#### **Queensland Border Declaration Pass and documents**

Before travelling to Queensland, farmers and agribusiness workers must complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass. You must describe your right of entry as 'I have an exemption granted by the Chief Health Officer'.

They must carry the following documents, and present them if requested by an Emergency Officer (Public Health):

- evidence of their identity confirming their place of residence, for example a driver licence;
- evidence of their employment, contract, property ownership, lease or agistment arrangements;
- a copy of this class exemption.

## **Surveillance Testing**

From 30 July 2021, farmers and agribusiness workers covered by this exemption must not enter Queensland unless:

- (a) they have evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result received within 7 days prior to entering Queensland; and
- (b) they have maintained a rolling 7-day testing cycle while they continue to travel into and out of COVID-19 hotspots, if applicable; and
- (c) by they can provide evidence of their compliance with the testing obligations in subparagraphs (a) and (b) if requested by an Emergency Officer (Public Health).

The surveillance testing requirements do not apply to those farmers and agribusiness workers who have only been to a COVID-19 hotspot in New South Wales that is part of the **border zone**.

## **Other conditions**

As an exempt class of person, farmers and agribusiness workers:

- a. must put in place a Quarantine Management Plan (which includes mandatory mask wearing, use of the Check In app where possible, and keeping records of movement by the applicant which can be provided if requested by a Queensland Government representative);
- b. must travel directly to and from the relevant farm or premises; and
- c. must only exit their mode of transport to access rest stop facilities, refuelling, and activities directly related to their agribusiness activity or to meet required regulation activities such as workplace health and safety or fatigue management; and
- d. may stay at overnight accommodation when necessary in order to fulfil fatigue management requirements; and
- e. who are Queensland residents must remain isolated, to the extent reasonably practicable, from the general public at the agribusiness or farm in New South Wales until the person returns to Queensland; or
- f. who are New South Wales residents must remain isolated, to the extent reasonably practicable, from the general public at the agribusiness or farm in Queensland until the person departs Queensland or for 14 days, whichever period is shorter. They must only remain in Queensland for the time necessary to perform the essential agribusiness or farming activities.

The class exemption does not apply to anyone who has:

- Been to an interstate exposure site or is a close contact of someone who has been to an interstate exposure site; or
- Had known contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
- Symptoms consistent with COVID-19, unless cleared by a medical practitioner and able to provide a negative COVID-19 test no greater than 3 days prior to travel; or
- Been to a Greater Sydney local government area, unless 14 days have passed since the person was in Greater Sydney.

Approval as farmers and agribusiness workers is valid for entry to Queensland until **11:59pm on 20 August 2021** unless amended or revoked.

I note your advice that all agribusiness supply chain businesses seeking to use the class exemption will be required to show evidence that they first attempted to source the skills from a non-hotspot in another state or territory and that it has either been genuinely not possible to do so or is cost or time-prohibitive to do so.

This exemption has been approved based on the Public Health Directions and COVID-19 hotspot declarations in place at the time of approval. It is each farmer's and agribusiness worker's responsibility to review the Public Health Directions and hotspot declarations at the time of their entry to Queensland to determine if they are subject to any amended requirements or obligations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeannette Young'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jeannette Young PSM  
**Queensland Chief Health Officer**  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Queensland Health**  
29 July 2021