

# Chief Executive Officer's report

**We are helping more Queenslanders than ever before, we have seen a year of growth and dedication from our employees to Queensland's primary producers, small businesses, and non-profit organisations.**

This financial year QRIDA approved more than 16,700 applications worth over \$304 million, the largest number of applications in a single year over our 27 year history.

We live and breathe rural and regional Queensland and supporting these communities is at the heart of our service delivery. Whether it's helping a young family buy their first property outside Longreach, funding for a fruit packing facility on the Southern Downs, or helping a small business recover from a natural disaster in Far North Queensland, we are proud of our history and passionate about our future in delivering more, new and varied programs and services to Queensland.

The diversity of programs and services we delivered in 2020-2021 demonstrates our capability as professional administrators of government grants and loans. We are proud of our people, processes and technology that enable us to scale up and respond to major events with confidence.

Our modern and agile service delivery model was tested again this past financial year by external factors such as the COVID-19 lockdowns. Through our business adaptation experience, we have been able to confidently broaden and expand our service delivery, offering program management to a range of government departments and agencies whilst taking care of our people and environment.

## Rural and regional support

Our longest running program, the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES), supports primary producers and shapes our values and culture at QRIDA.

We approved 193 applications for First Start and Sustainability Loans under the PIPES program, totalling almost \$104 million in 2020-2021.

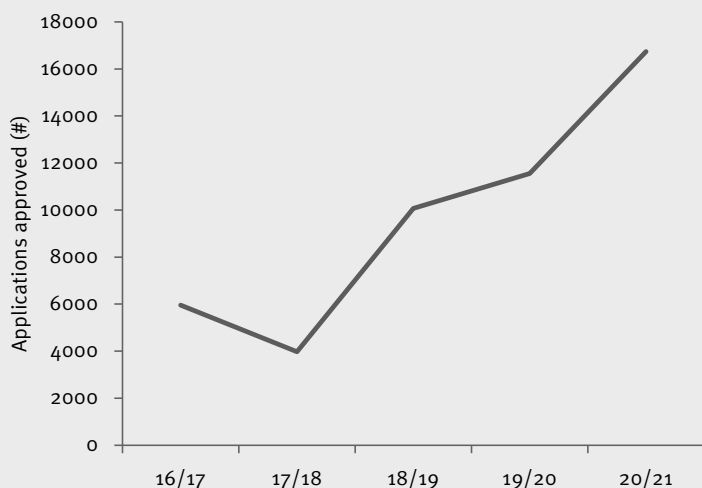
This scheme continues to help establish the next generation of primary producers and allow existing producers achieve more productive and sustainable enterprises with investments in water infrastructure to mitigate the effects of drought and other on-farm infrastructure to improve biosecurity, reduce pests and market risks.

In the coming year, 2021-2022, the Queensland Government has extended the annual funding pool for PIPES by a further \$20 million to \$120 million, a testament to the value of this program to primary producers across our state.

We were proud to continue our support for Queensland's beef industry at Beef Australia 2021 in Rockhampton. Although this triennial event was somewhat different to previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions, the strong attendance showcased how this vibrant industry still thrives despite global challenges.

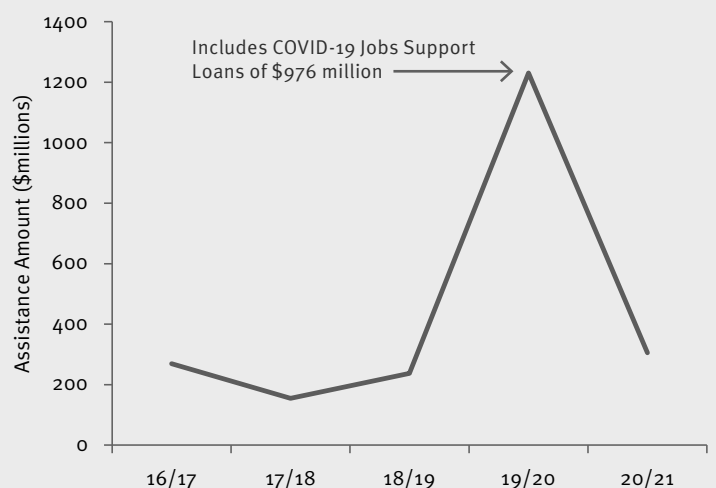
## Five year snapshot

### Applications approved



Number of loan and grant applications approved in the financial year.

### Program approvals



Total loan and grant assistance amount approved in the financial year.



### Continued COVID-19 response

QRIDA has continued to play its part this year in helping support the Queensland Government’s Economic Recovery Strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by delivering multiple programs and millions of dollars in business assistance to rural and regional communities. These include:

- Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant (Round 2) which saw \$99.9 million in funding delivered to more than 11,000 Queensland small businesses as they adjusted their operations as part of their pandemic response
- COVID-19 International Tourism Adaption Grant Program delivered \$2.4 million to 258 approved tourism businesses to help businesses pivot to a domestic market or hibernate until international markets open
- COVID-19 Marine Tourism Rebate delivered \$1.8 million to keep 132 marine operators afloat, predominantly in North and Far North Queensland
- Ongoing management of the COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan portfolio which has provided \$996 million across 6,928 businesses supporting 86,464 local jobs.

### Natural disaster response

Recovery from disasters can take many years and help can take many shapes and forms. This financial year QRIDA:

- Administered \$24 million in assistance to Queenslanders under the Australian and Queensland Government funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for Tropical Cyclone Niran
- Approved \$18 million in North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure Co-Contribution Grants on behalf of the Australian Government to help producers in their long-term recovery following the 2019 Monsoon Trough event

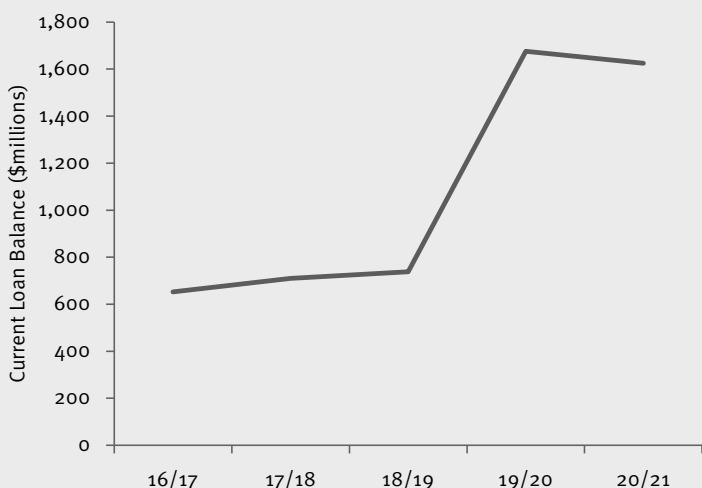
- Developed three new programs in partnership with the Australian Government to assist long term community recovery in North and Far North Queensland regions impacted by the 2019 Monsoon Trough event. These programs are providing funding to help address economic diversity, telecommunications and energy improvement and preventative youth mental health programs, again highlighting our role in supporting our regions.

Here at QRIDA, we’re proud to stay true to our roots in contributing to support Queensland’s rural and regional communities. Our growth, as a result of an increase in the volume and diversity of programs we deliver, has strengthened our commitment to Queenslanders across more industries and regions than ever before.

I would like to thank our employees located across the state, our allies, the Board of Directors, and the Honourable Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, for their support during another challenging and successful year. We look forward to continuing our special relationship with rural and regional Queensland and delivering new programs and services that support and provide value to Queenslanders.

Cameron MacMillan  
Chief Executive Officer

### Loan register



Current loan balances (all open loans) as at 30 June each year.

### Staffing



Full-time equivalent (FTE) QRIDA employees as at 30 June each year.