



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Thursday 7th October 2021

Queensland playing catch up after Laboring the point

The Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud today welcomed the long-awaited news that quarantine facilities for Ag workers will be opened up in Queensland.

“This has been a far too long coming for farmers who’ve been struggling to get the workers they needed to get their produce from their paddock to your plate,” Minister Littleproud said.

“The Queensland government have been pointing the finger at everyone else when the responsibility has always rested with them to solve the problem.

“What this announcement proves is that it has always been their responsibility to fix and that their premiers and the chief health officers are the only ones who have the power under their health orders to approve arrivals of ag workers.

“The states wanted and were granted control over the quarantining of agricultural workers coming to Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme and the Seasonal Workers Program nearly 12 months ago.

“While the Federal Government went about getting those workers from 10 regional nations visa ready to come to Australia, Queensland have only let a trickle of them in.

“There are 25,000 workers sitting on the tarmac in those nations waiting for the states to allow them to come here and do the work in our agricultural industries.

“We will continue to sign the visas for the ag workers as quickly as the state governments approve the health orders.

“The jurisdictions that have been doing the best at getting the workers from the regional nations to the farms are South Australia and the Northern Territory.

“Queensland is a long way behind and will be playing catch up for a long time to come.”

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