



Research and innovation
for rural prosperity

5 December 2022

Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
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Dear Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Joint Select Committee inquiry into workforce development in Northern Australia.

In our submission, AgriFutures Australia is specifically referencing the term:- challenges to attracting and retaining a skilled workforce across Northern Australia

AgriFutures has reported research from the Institute for the Future and Agthentic Advisory 'Future Forces - A ten-year horizon for Australian agriculture' (2021). The report provides insights relevant to future workforce by looking at the future of Australian agricultural production. The report suggests looking beyond emerging technologies and businesses toward the type of world within which those technologies and businesses will operate. The report offers a perspective on the agri-food system's emerging landscape over the next decade being new industries, new technologies and new income streams.

Recently, AgriFutures commissioned research on behalf of the Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry under the AgATTRACT program into 'Community perceptions & worker experience – qualitative and quantitative' (Unpublished). These reports provide broader context to the drivers for workforce attraction and retention relevant to all states and territories.

In a similar discipline area, AgriFutures is currently collaborating with National Farmers' Federation on the AgCAREER Start program (agcareerstart.com.au) that commenced in 2022. This national program is providing a practical gap year program essentially for school leavers and has received interest from Northern Australia applicants and business hosts.

AgriFutures reports are available online at agrifutures.com.au.

We welcome further contact and enquiries related to this submission.

Yours sincerely

Michael Beer

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