

5 November 2024

Minister Tony Perrett
Minister for Primary Industries

Via email: Gympie@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister Perrett,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Primary Industries. The Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with you to strengthen Queensland's agricultural sector, and we would like to invite you to visit a banana farm in Far North Queensland. This visit would provide valuable insights into the industry's challenges and innovations and allow us to discuss how we can collaborate to achieve shared goals.

As you're aware from my previous letter, Far North Queensland produces 94% of Australia's bananas, contributing \$1.276 billion annually to the economy and employing over 13,400 full-time equivalent workers.

Biosecurity remains our top concern, especially in managing threats like Panama TR4. We appreciate the LNP's commitment to a \$50 million biosecurity boost and the deployment of additional biosecurity officers. The proposed review of the Cape York Biosecurity Facility at Coen is another critical step we support to strengthen protection measures for our region.

We also share your focus on reducing regulatory burdens for farmers while upholding essential food safety and environmental standards. Many of our growers are working to adopt best management practices, particularly within Great Barrier Reef catchments, and we would welcome your support for programs that promote sustainability and environmental responsibility.

We look forward to hosting you in Far North Queensland and discussing these priorities further. Please let us know a convenient time for your visit.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Queensland agriculture.

Sincerely,



Leon Collins
ABGC Chair