

COVID-19 Industry engagement article from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Government engaging with industry – we want to hear from you

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is changing the way we live and work—and the agricultural industry is no exception.

Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries are essential to our country's food and fibre security, so keeping our industries strong and viable is a priority.

Whether you're working in these industries directly, or providing support services to them, you are a vital piece of the puzzle.

The need for a strong partnership between industry and government is more important than ever before and communication and collaboration are critical.

To ensure this, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has set up an engagement team specifically for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

Mark Tucker, the Senior Agriculture Engagement Officer leading the team, is the pivotal, single point of contact between industry and government.

He is already working closely with industry stakeholders and peak bodies on issues surround Covid-19 to ensure industry's ideas and perspectives are considered in government decision-making.

Mark said the importance of sharing information could never be underestimated.

"It's time to share knowledge and ideas—collaboration is vital," Mark said.

"It's important we all have a good understanding of what's happening with this pandemic and the issues we are facing.

"I'm here to work with you to ensure Australia maintains its production and supply chains and I'm keen to hear your ideas."

Mark is a former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. He has a strong understanding of Australia's agriculture industry.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has a COVID-19 web site with a page specifically for industry engagement planned to address emerging issues.

[Find out what's happening and how you can get involved](#) or contact Mark and his team at coronavirus.industry@agriculture.gov.au.