



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Ref: MC20-002760

Ms Traci Wilson-Brown
Office Manager
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Via email: wwoofoffice@gmail.com

Dear Ms Wilson-Brown

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 April 2020 about engagement of temporary agricultural workers to the Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Veteran's Affairs and Defence Personnel. Your letter has been referred to the Hon David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management as this matter falls within his portfolio responsibilities. Minister Littleproud has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Minister Littleproud is meeting with state and territory agriculture ministers across the country to manage the impact of measures implemented to address COVID-19 on the agriculture, fisheries, forestry and fibre sectors. This includes consideration of the potential impact on labour supply and people movement as a result of border closures, and how these can be managed in part, with the extension of Working Holiday Maker visas.

The Government is committed to protecting the health of Australians, supporting businesses and jobs and securing our food supply chain while we combat COVID-19. The Government has now implemented temporary visa measures to support the agricultural workforce needed to secure Australia's food supplies. State and territory governments have key responsibilities for self-isolation and social distancing requirements and, through National Cabinet, we are working with state and territory governments to implement complementary measures. Please see more information on the various temporary visa measures via this link - <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/coronavirus/industry#agriculture-workforce>.

All visa holders must meet all current state and territory requirements including self-isolation, social distancing, hygiene and appropriate accommodation. State and territory governments have key responsibilities and through National Cabinet we are working with state and territory governments to implement complementary measures. Various links on states and territories COVID 19 measures can be sourced via this link - <https://www.interstatequarantine.org.au/state-and-territory-border-closures/>.

I encourage you to consider COVID-19 updates in relation to agriculture and food production at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/coronavirus/industry> or to contact me and my team at coronavirus.industry@agriculture.gov.au if you have further questions.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the government's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Tucker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Tucker
Senior Agriculture Industry Engagement Officer
29 April 2020