



The Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee – TWT
Legislative Council Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

Email: twt@parliament.tas.gov.au

TFGA Submission: Inquiry into TasWater Operations

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

Agriculture is one of the key pillars of the economy and, with the current level of support from government, are well positioned to further capitalise on the stature of Tasmania agriculture.

The TFGA appreciates the opportunity to make comment on the Inquiry into TasWater Operations.

TFGA is supportive of the use of re-use water for irrigation and would like to see this developed and expanded further. Ground water is a valuable commodity particularly in a climate of declining rainfalls, TFGA believes there is a benefit in commencing the process of making re-use water more readily available for irrigation purposes.

TasWater and Tasmanian Irrigation (TI) collaborate on some of TI's water schemes and not others. TFGA's initial understanding of both entities was that they are completely independent of each other. We do question the reasoning for this collaboration if such collaboration does not bring benefits to the farming community but rather increases costs.

Recent revelations that TasWater are facing fiscal restraints and seeking a capital injection of \$735 million is concerning. The suggestion that these costs should be borne by consumers before any in-house cost reduction strategy is implemented, is not something the TFGA can support.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Skillern
Chief Executive Officer
25th September 2020