

## FACT SHEET

### *Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Amendment Bill 2014*

The *Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Act 1990* establishes a Trust that distributes grant funding to support beef research, development and extension. The Trust now holds almost \$600,000\*. The funds were originally collected in the 1980's for a beef residue testing program that was later superseded.

Over twenty years after the Trust was established, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) undertook an extensive review of the Act in 2011-12, to consider whether the Trust arrangements remained appropriate.

The Review recommended a number of measures to increase the accountability and transparency of the Trust operations, whilst continuing the current arrangements under which Trust funds and administration are managed by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA).

This Bill implements the recommendations of that Review. It will amend the *Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Act 1990* to:

- Expand the Trust from three members to five;
- Diversify the nomination process to source members from the wider industry, and incorporate relevant agricultural science expertise;
- Increase the annual reporting requirements placed on the Trust;
- Require the Trust to invite the Minister to be an observer at every meeting (or to send a representative); and
- Permit the Minister to dissolve the Trust, if serious management breaches occur which are not rectified, and cannot be resolved by any other reasonable option.

The Bill will modernise the operations of the Beef Trust, to the benefit of all Tasmania's beef producers.

\* \$596,863 as at 30 June 2014