



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZERS ASSOCIATION

Mr G Hall MLC
Inquiry Chair
Legislative Council Inquiry into Public Native Forests Transition
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Mr Hall

The Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association (TFGA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Legislative Council inquiry public native forests transition.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. To this aim the TFGA currently has a membership of 3100 Tasmanian agricultural enterprises, which translates to 80% of enterprises within the Tasmanian agricultural sector. Consequently, there is no doubt that the TFGA is the peak representative organisation for the agricultural sector in Tasmania.

With its mission being to advance the development of Tasmanian primary industries, the TFGA is committed to ensuring that the agriculture sector in Tasmania is profitable and sustainable. The TFGA is also committed to promoting the agricultural sectors' vital contribution to the environmental, social and economic fabric of Tasmania to all levels of government and the wider community.

There are an estimated 1,600 private forest owners who collectively manage over 850,000 hectares of native forest, a little over 27% of Tasmania's native forest estate. Most of these forest owners are farmers, and so fall within our representative remit. Taking into account discounts resulting from forest practices controls, voluntary reservation and other owner intent matters, it is estimated that up to 60% of this estate is potentially available for timber production and has contributed significant resource to the conventional forest products industry in the past, with potential to continue to do so, while contributing significant positive environmental and social outcomes.

Importantly, private forest owners acknowledge that it is time to update our forestry industry operating model. The historical model is outdated and needs updating and rejuvenating. Private forest owners are excited about potential opportunities that exist for their native forests to contribute to a revitalised industry with expanded market opportunities and social engagement. They regard their forests as real, tangible assets for their families and future generations, their local communities and the Tasmanian community at large.

The attached submission addresses the terms of reference of the inquiry, and provides additional information about the private forestry sector.

We would of course be pleased to provide any further information you should require and look forward to a making presentation to the committee.

Yours sincerely

Jan Davis

Chief Executive Officer
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ACN 009 477 810
ABN 51 009 477 810

P: (03) 6332 1800
F: (03) 6331 4344
W: www.tfga.com.au

A: TFGA House, PO Box 193
Cnr Cimitiere & Charles Streets
Launceston TAS 7250