



House of Assembly Select Committee on Commonwealth Decisions on Agricultural Land

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMONWEALTH DECISIONS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Friday, 28 August 2026

On Thursday, 13 August 2026 the House of Assembly established via resolution the House of Assembly Select Committee on Commonwealth Decisions on Agricultural Land with the following Terms of Reference: -

- (1) *A select committee be appointed with the power to send for persons, papers and records to inquire into, consider and report on the impact of Commonwealth funding, investment, regulatory and policy decisions on strategically significant agricultural land in Tasmania, with the following Terms of Reference:-*
 - (a) *the influence of Commonwealth funding, financing and policy mechanisms, including the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme, the Support Plantation Establishment Program and other Commonwealth initiatives, on the acquisition, ownership and use of strategically agricultural land in Tasmania, including the acquisition of Rushy Lagoon and associated properties;*
 - (b) *the extent to which Commonwealth programs and incentives have facilitated the conversion of productive agricultural land in Tasmania to carbon sequestration, plantation forestry or biodiversity-related land uses, and the impacts of those changes on agricultural production, food and fibre industries, employment, regional communities and opportunities for agricultural ownership;*
 - (c) *the consideration given by the Foreign Investment Review Board and other Commonwealth decision-makers to Tasmania's agricultural, economic and regional interests in relation to the acquisition of Rushy Lagoon and associated properties;*
 - (d) *the adequacy of Commonwealth assessment, consultation, approval and oversight processes relating to decisions affecting strategically significant agricultural land in Tasmania; and*
 - (e) *legislative, regulatory, administrative or policy reforms to improve transparency, accountability and consideration of Tasmania's interests in Commonwealth decisions affecting strategically significant agricultural land.*

Under the resolution of the House of Assembly, the Committee is due to report by 31 March 2027.

The Committee invites interested persons or organisations to make written submissions to the Committee by the closing date of **Friday, 9 October 2026**. An advertisement calling for submissions will be placed in the three regional newspapers on **Saturday, 5 September 2026**.

For further information about the inquiry please visit the inquiry website:
<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/house-of-assembly/select-committees/select-committee-on-commonwealth-decisions-on-agricultural-land>

Enquires and submissions should be directed to: -

The Secretary, Select Committee on Commonwealth Decisions on Agricultural Land, House of Assembly, Parliament House, Hobart, TAS, 7000, or via email: agland@parliament.tas.gov.au

Michael Ferguson
Committee Chair