



Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

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A Member Of The
National Farmer's Federation

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Quarantine & Biosecurity Review GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

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To whom it may concern,

The Tasmanian Farmers and Grazier's Association (TFGA) is the peak representative body for farmers in Tasmania. Membership totals some 4,000 enterprises covering the wool, meat, dairy, vegetables and cereals and seed production industries. Members are also involved in a range of other agricultural activities, including poppies, berries and pyrethrum, and private forest management and wood production in both native forests and plantations.

The TFGA is an affiliate of the National Farmers Federation (NFF). The TFGA has provided input into and supports the NFF's submission to the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review. **Accordingly the purpose of this letter is to formally register our interest as a stakeholder in the Review.**

The TFGA appreciates that the Review is being conducted in the national context. However it goes without saying that biosecurity and quarantine is also significant State issue. This is particularly so for Tasmania which is an "island off an island".

Tasmanian agriculture fundamentally depends on maintaining the integrity of our state border control arrangements. We have an advantage as a result of the natural barrier that is Bass Strait. However, in recent times Tasmania has seen incursions of weeds like Paterson's curse and pests like white snails arrive in imported feed grain resulting in additional post-border control and monitoring costs to both Government and landowners. We also closely watched the recent Equine Influenza outbreak and remain concerned at potential parallels as to whether Government and the agricultural industry are sufficiently prepared, coordinated and able to respond to any future emergency animal disease outbreaks.

Hence many of the issues raised in the Review can directly apply in the Tasmanian context and we fully support the NFF's views relating to pre-border, at the border and post-border issues. Greater engagement and resourcing at the State level is also high priority issue for the TFGA.

We look forward to receiving further information and would welcome any opportunities to provide further detailed input as the Review proceeds.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Swain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Swain
President